



TEMPORARY HOSPITAL,
NOW SPICE POSTOFFICE.
BAXTER DIED HERE,
NOV. 7, 1863.

HOUSE IN WHICH
MAJOR BAILEY DIED,
NOV. 7, 1863



TREE UNDER WHICH
GEN. ROBT. E. LEE SLEPT,
NIGHT OF SEPT. 15, 1861,
NEAR DROOP MOUNTAIN.

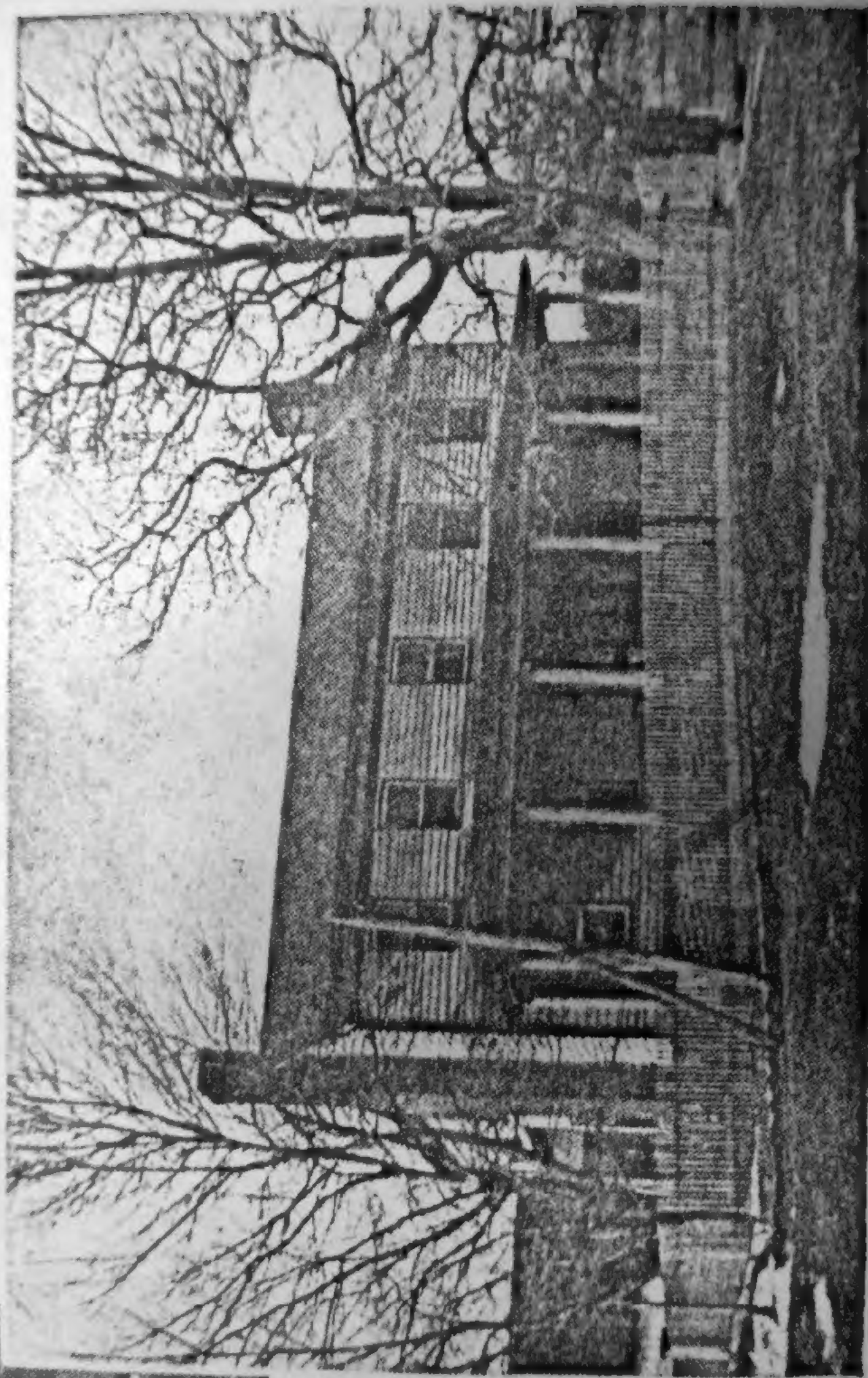


AVERELL'S HOSPITAL—
BEARD'S RESIDENCE
AT HILLSBORO.

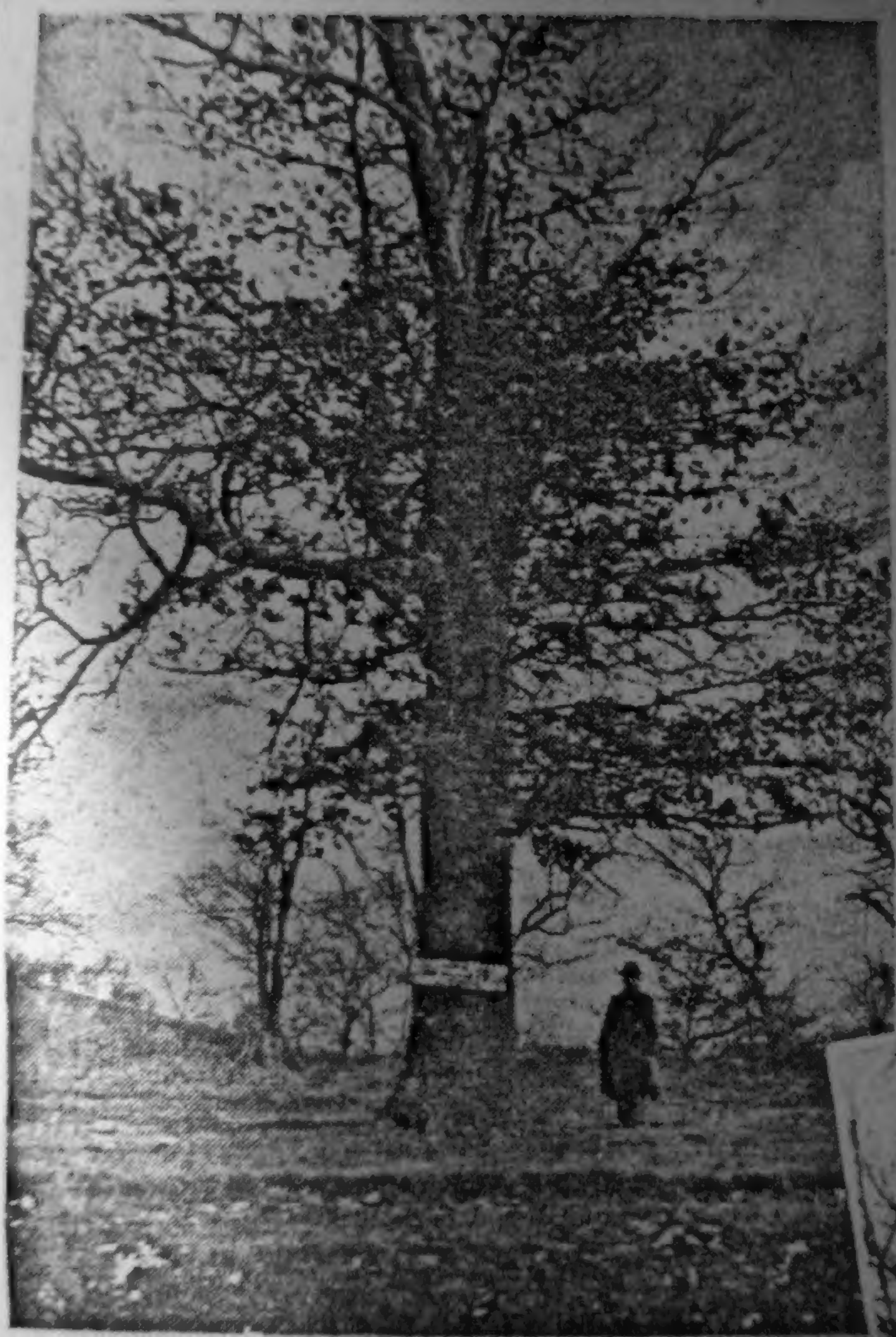


Scenes from Droop Mountain Battlefield

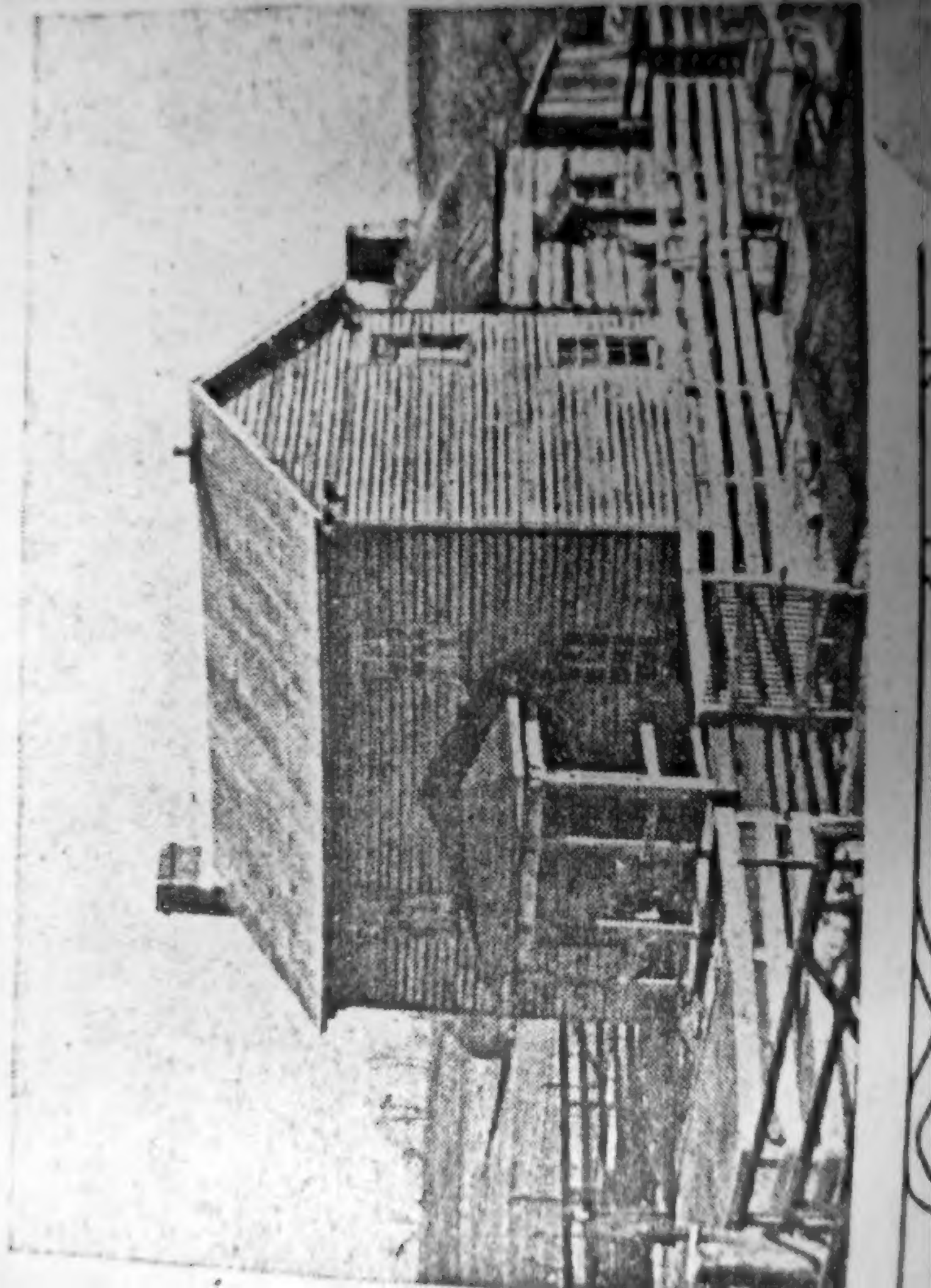




Top Mountain School







camped for the night. On the morning of the 6th, General Averell threw out a strong skirmish line that cleared his front to the foot of the Mountain. About 9 A. M. the 10th W. Va. Inft., 28th Ohio Inft. and one company of the 14th Pa. Cav. and two pieces of Ewing's Battery were sent around on a back road $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles where they formed, and struck the enemy in force. Here is where the principal and hardest part of the battle was fought, and in passing over one small plot of cleared land, not comprising more than one acre, thirteen were killed and forty-seven were wounded. Some of those wounded died later, so if in this battlefield covering nearly two thousand acres of land and fought on by seven thousand determined soldiers, what would the casualty list have been if the land had been cleared. According to numbers, it might have been a second Lookout Mountain, a Fredericksburg, or a battle of great slaughter. Providence was kind, whilst the Mountain State was baptized in blood. Averell then formed the 2nd, 3rd and 8th W. Va. Mounted Infantry, with a portion of the 14th Pa. Cavalry in line of battle, who succeeded in driving the Confederate forces, composed of the 22nd Va. Inft. and 19th Va. Cav. and other units up the mountain, near the summit. While further on the left of the Confederate line we find a portion of Colonel Averell's regiment, 20th Va., Colonel.....commanding, Kesler's Battalion, 23rd Va., Major Blessing; four companies Derrick's battalion, a portion of the 22nd Va. Inft. Some of these units have been twice named because, as the fighting became more severe on the Confederate left, they weakened their right by sending reinforcements to strengthen their left. I give it as my opinion, knowing the spirit of the men who fought that battle, that if the army had not been protected by a dense forest that fifty per cent of the men engaged would have been slaughtered.

The forces engaged in the Battle were composed of twelve Confederate units, regiments, battalions and independent companies.

While the Union forces were composed of nine units, regiments and battalions, there was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies, the 10th West Virginia infantry and the 23rd Ohio that comprised the flanking party and did the principle fighting was officially reported as 1175 soldiers while the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Confederate, was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Captain Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Captain Derring's battalion 300, and Major Kesler's battalion and other units composed a very

Pocahontas Co. Section 4b - 3
AVERILL'S RETREAT

The "fourth separate brigade" was created March 28, 1863 and the command was given over to Gen. Roberts who had his headquarters at Weston. It included all the eastern section of West Virginia in which section were numerous Confederate sympathizers. There being probably more Confederate than Union people. This was true of Pocahontas Co. and Pocahontas was in the very heart of the bush-whacking section. There were so many deadly rifle shots, and both sides engaged in this unlawful warfare. Regular soldiers sometimes practiced it. In fact the State Guards or Scouts practiced this type of warfare almost altogether. This state of things Roberts intended to put down by driving the Confederates out. His policy was to make every sympathizer with the Confederates leave home. In this he had trouble. It was about this time that our families took to refugeeing. Here is an example of his mistaken policy. He might harry the old folks out of their homes because they had a son in the Confederate army, to find out later that these same parents had four other sons in the Union army. He was soon in disgrace at Washington and was referred to as the general who made "war on women and children."

On May 18, 1863 General William Woods Averill was ordered to find Roberts and to take over his command. Averill instead of proceeding against Staunton, as expected, came to Huntersville in Pocahontas Co. where he dispersed small detachments of Confederates, capturing some arms and stores.

He then marched into Greenbrier County and the battle of Rocky Gap was fought. On Averill's next appearance in Pocahontas County the battle of Droop Mountain was fought. After this battle Averill went as far south as Lewisburg then into Hampshire County. There he was notified he must make a raid on Salem

Virginia and destroy the railroad at this place. This was sending him with a small force (about 2,500 men) into Confederate territory held with undisputed possession.

He left Hampshire county on December 8, 1863. The first two days were spent in reaching Petersburg during which time the shoeing of horses went on as there had not been time to get the army ready for the march. The plan that was so quickly made sent Col. Moore with considerable force down through Pocahontas and on towards Kanawha to make a demonstration, and another force was sent into the valley towards Staunton. These detachments succeeded in diverting the Confederate forces from the main object of the campaign, which was the raid on the military depot and railroad at Salem.

Mr. Price goes into detail about where Averill was each day, but at any rate he marched by way of Petersburg, Franklin, Monteray, Mt. Grove, Sweet Sulphur Springs to Salem. He reached Salem on the morning of Dec. 16, 1863. They had completed their work by four o'clock in the afternoon.

He was hemmed in by forces under Fitzhugh, Lee, Jackson, Early and Echols and a terrible rain was flooding every stream. His next move was to get out of this death trap. Thus he began his famous retreat. He marched seven miles before dark and made camp. On the 17th it rained all day and all night, then turned cold. For the next four days he marched out of Virginia with the Confederates close on his heels. He had a few engagements with them. The country in Monroe and Greenbrier Counties was strongly held against him. He knew of an army at Mountain Grove. The road up Anthony's Creek to Huntersville was not open. Then it was that Averill made the most famous detour that was ever heard of. In his official report, all he said about it was that he "reached Hillsboro in Pocahontas by an "obscure road" by the evening of December 21, 1863." It had turned cold, and the streams were still high. He must have followed a

Juanita S. Dilley
pocahontas Co.
Chapter 4, Section 4b - 3
Averill's Retreat

trail of some sort for he brought his artillery through. This country between Callahans and the mouth of Spice Run is still in a state of wilderness and it would be interesting to know just how he got through with 2,500 men. It can be accounted for only on the theory that these soldiers were in the best condition physically and that they had the fierce determination to win through. The chances of a single man living to swim the Greenbrier at such a stage on such a day are rather slim, but maybe a whole army plunging into it together could overcome the rush of the icy current and bring them out on the other side. It would have been all but impossible for any other than toughened American soldiers. They say that when the army appeared in the Little Levels that they did not come by any road particularly, but swarmed up the side of the river ridge and broke over into the cleared level fields with a front several miles wide. The soldiers were all but starving. They had been marching through Confederate territory and after leaving Covington they had come through the wilderness. The Levels was the first country they had seen for days that afforded food and shelter.

It was the one raid into the Levels that took the citizens wholly by surprise. No well regulated army was supposed to be traveling through these mountains. But there was not much to eat there, for 1863 was the year when the county had been full of marching soldiers on both sides, culminating in the battle of Droop Mountain in November. So most of the winter provisions were well hid out. But what was found was eaten, though there seems to have been wonderful discipline in regard to taking food by force, as there was one case of an officer shooting a private who would not leave some bacon alone that a housewife insisted on keeping. At one house they ate all they could find, then ate the contents of a swill barrel that was getting ripe for swine.

Every man and boy they could find they arrested. These prisoners were taken to the Academy building and the building was crowded with them. Alvin Clark, Andrew Price's, father-in-law was among these prisoners and Mr. Price got much of his information from him as he was held captive for three days. The soldiers were desperate and weary, but there was great vigilance and discipline maintained. The one question was "Is there any road to Edray so as to miss Marlin's Bottom?" And no man could tell him of any road. It was a matter of utmost importance. Hillsboro was in the Confederacy. Edray, fifteen miles north was in the Union. What Averill wanted was to reach Edray without chance of meeting a Confederate army at Marlin's Bottom where a road from the east comes in, but there was no detour, and next morning he was on his way. His reports say that "On my way to Edray my rear guard experienced some trifling attacks on Dec. 22nd "This referred to some very distant shots from the bush by some bush-whackers who hung on the flanks of the army.

Prisoners say they were very cautious and fearful as they approached Marlin's Bottom, but when the bridge at that place had been safely passed their spirits rose and they seemed to be freed from all fear of being captured.

Once at Edray, all discipline was relaxed and even the sentinels slept the sleep of exhaustion. It is said that a hundred men could have captured the whole army.

No particular attention was paid to the prisoners, and most of them quietly withdrew in the night time and the next morning the rest of them were told to go home. Alvin Clark says Averill told him that it appeared his family had more need of him than did the Union army and that he could go home. Averill spent the night at Edray in the brick house which stood where the house of William Sharp later stood. Most of the prisoners were impressed with the boyish appearance of Averill. By that time his name had become a household word in the mountains

... he had the reputation of a most powerful and effective war lord. They expected him to be an older man.

On the Lord he began the journey across Elk back to Beverly and safety. The roads were glazed with ice. The men had to dismount and pull the artillery by hand part of the way. But they got back with all their equipment.

For endurance, courage, strength and pluck this experience of an army of 2,500 is perhaps without parallel. Why much was not made of it is hard to figure out. For the work of these 2,500 who split the Confederacy wide open and overcome the resistance of the forces of men and nature seems that of supermen. Historians have practically ignored it. All the publicity it got at the time was from the Richmond papers and that was ridicule heaped on the Confederate forces, when no less than seven Confederate armies allowed one little Union army to cut through their lines, destroy two hundred thousand bushels of grain and other stores, tear up a railroad, and then to escape without capture.

The government recognized his campaign as a brilliant achievement, though the escape was due to pure luck, the Confederates having taken the wrong road. However, their reward was a new suit and a new pair shoes, for each of the men, to replace those worn out on the march. (From History of Pocahontas - Price Pocahontas Times Apr. 26, 1923. Written by Andrew Price.)

This march was made from New Creek in Hampshire County, to Beverly by way of Salem, a distance of around 400 miles in 17 days, and in the winter time.

Union Soldier

... were Union soldier from this County who went out and joined other Companies
... regiments who were mostly under the commands of Gener Wilroy and General Sheridan.
... the names that are available are as follows:

Athos Thomas,
Arbogast Brown,
Arbogast George,
Buzzard Armenius,
Curry John,
Cutlip William ,
Duffield William
Duncan William
Dilly Clark,
Kellison Clark,
Kellison Andrew,
Kee James,
McCarty Peter,
Moore, David,
Moore Joseph ,
Sharp Jeremiah
Sharp Milton,
Slaton John,
(Sheare David)
(Rider James)
Wanless Andrew,
Wanless Nelson,
Wanless John F

A 4 Sharp
Family History
5 files.
By Ward Sharp

THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

Entered at the Postoffice at Marlinton, W. Va., as second class matter.

CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 1940

The trip last week was over to Carksburg to rehab a few feeble jests before that friendly society, the Kiwanis Club, and tell them builders where to head in. The invite came through the courtesy of Rupert Sinsel. He is a kinsman through the Warwick line. I am only hoping I did not say too much to disgrace the family reputation in those parts.

The Sinsels are a strong family connection in Berbour county. Their connection with the Warwick relationship is through the marriage of a daughter of Charles Cameron See, son of Adam and Mary Warwick See, the latter a daughter of Major Jacob Warwick of Pocahontas county. Charles Cameron See's wife was a daughter of Dr Squire Bosworth of Beverly.

I recall my father, the late Dr. William T. Price, telling interestingly of a visit he paid to the Sensel family when he went out with the Tin Cup Campaign to Grafton in 1861 to defend the Commonwealth from invasion from the north. The Sinsel children said they were glad to see cousin, but for the sake of peace and harmony not to talk war before Grandpa Sinsel, and not to mention the mission which brought him to those parts. He could get by all right, as no uniforms had been issued to the Virginia soldiers for this first campaign.

Morning came after a pleasant social evening and a night of restful repose. Like in all regulated households, then as now, the day was fairly begun with family prayer. The old patriarch had the young minister read the Scripture portion, but he reserved to himself the matter of leading the prayer. The gist of the most fervent petitions was that the Union of States be preserved; by gentle persuasion if possible, but by unleashed force if necessary.

I have the impression pa did not especially appreciate being prayed against, but what could he do about it?

For about eight years—from 1784 to 1792—from Saulsbury Run to Swago Creek, from Rover to Huckle

grand jury return indictments for murder against many of our prominent people. They had been Confederate soldiers, and were haled before a civil court to answer for acts of war.

It kind of leaked out that the indictment would be quashed by the judge for cash consideration. I never heard tell of any of the true bills being taken care of in this easy, quiet, crooked way. My recollection is the court records will show the indictment against Captain Jacob W. Marshall, of the 19th Virginia Cavalry, was not thrown out of court until sometime in the eighties when Judge Homer Holt was on the bench.

Anyway the people quietly organized a lynching bee to deal summarily with the Judge Harrison on his return to Lewisburg from the Hunterville court. In some way the word leaked to the judge and he went home by way of Anthony Creek instead of the usual route, the Lewisburg and Marlins Bottom Turnpike. I have heard the rope was to be tied to the Marlinton bridge when it was dropped the judge in the river.

Then the judge got in a mess at the Lewisburg court; got knocked through a window by the clerk of the court; went west and died within my own recollection in a poor house in Colorado.

All this is just leading up to say that the late Spencer Dayton appeared on the scene at a time when a lot of good people were in need of an advocate. The local attorneys were debarred by reason of the test oath. They could not swear they had not aided and abetted the late Southern Confederacy.

Incidentally one of them, Captain D. A. Stopher did stand and so swear. Having raised a whole company, called the Pocahontas Rescues, and marched them off in the Tin Cup Campaign to Philippi as their captain having collected some five minnie balls in his body during the following four years of war, the doughty captain was promptly indicted for false swearing. Then he too apparently stood in need of an advocate as much as anybody else.

It was Spencer Dayton who came into the breach. He came here from Summersville, over the Nicholas Trail through the Black Forest. It is said he disliked to wear shoes, and that he walked the distance barefooted, carrying his shoes and only putting them on when he came to sight of the court house. Anyway, the

...in Clarkburg,
...up the court records for
those eight years.

The Harrison County line is a landmark here. Beginning at the Ohio River below Parkersburg, it crossed Williams River at the mouth and Greenbrier River at the Buckle Rocks above the mouth of Swago, and thence to the Top of a peak where the Greenbrier and Potomac line corners on the State boundary. This survey was made in 1774. The line dividing Botetourt and Augusta, had been projected years before. It was recognized though never surveyed. The reason I say recognized is the Ewings, Kinnisons and McNeels went to Point Pleasant in 1774 with Botetourt companies, for they lived below Swago; the Porges, Johnsons, Moores, Warwicks, Camerons, who lived above Swago, went out with Augusta companies.

About all that can be said about our people being a part of Harrison county is that while it was so said on the book for eight years they were a part of it, in reality they did not know nor do much about it.

In counties west of us, the bearing of the old Harrison county line was taken by the old surveyors as the base line in running out the land grants.

The Sinsel family is connected with the Dayton family. The wife of Judge A. G. Dayton was a Miss Sinsel; their son is the Honorable Arthur Dayton of Charleston, leading lawyer, outstanding Shakespearean scholar of his generation, and a recognized art critic in the field of picture painting. What I am leading up to say is the late Judge Dayton was the son of the late Spencer Dayton. He came from Connecticut along about some time in the early fifties or late forties to practice law. This he did extensively in a whole block of counties which are now in central West Virginia. Incidentally when his grandson, Arthur, moved from Phillippi to Charleston some years since, the name of Dayton was removed from the list of attorneys at the bar of Harbours county, where it held honorable position for eighty years—grandfather, son and grandson.

Spencer Dayton is a tradition in Pocahontas county, and I have let the old people die off without finding out about his practice and service here in reconstruction times. Of course his family has written some thing about him and his ancestors tracing the line over to Old England and even running it down to Hannu Meade, whatever and wherever that was. I remember I ought not to admit I was so provincial and narrow as to have no interest in anything over Valley and State. But I have in a man can come take his own territory and spread himself to fill it. A man's best is his best deed.

...there were no
...ally through the
...ments were thrown out of
...As for the indictment ag
...tain Supper in some way appe
...taken to the Federal Court at Clarks
burg, where the case was baffled
along until the state restored the
right of franchise to the Confederate
soldier, and then dropped.

This, sketchily, is the tradition of Spencer Dayton, the lawyer from the North, in Pocahontas county at a time when a lot of good people sure needed the help he so ably and so carefully rendered them.

You know, I never pose as a person with a message. In fact, when it comes to men with messages and women with missions, I devoutly ask a merciful heaven to deliver us, along with sudden death, bone erysipelas and poison ivy. However, I did tell those West Forkers down in Clarkburg that since their bick town was now something more than a wide place on the old Northwest Pike it was about time they were realizing the need of culture, and for heaven's sake to do the right thing by Salem College. This fine old school is eking out a somewhat precarious existence. Once it was down the pike ways, it is now just exactly far enough out in a suburban area. It is living up to and beyond its honorable traditions by doing a bigger and better work than ever before. Woefully, is it handicapped by cut throat competition from State supported schools—which cannot be helped—and through lack of means to really meet the demands for higher education by Clarkburg boys and girls, so many of whom cannot go elsewhere—which can be helped.

It happens to be in name a Baptist College—tank or deep water I cannot say—but I do say the West Forker who would refuse moral and financial support to such a local institution because it bears not the name of his particular persuasion, the lid of the pit is popping for his lean old narrow soul.

I tried to tell them what the city of Richmond had done for the University of Richmond, a so called denominational college, what Huntington had done for Marsal College, what Charleston is liable to wake up and do for Morris Harvey, how Morgantown has been dead asleep at the switch as regards any apparent local interest, which would set any thing in the way of money and effort, for the advancement of West Virginia University.

Oh, I tried to throw the gad at those boys of the friendly society who take a big offense. For after all, it is the duty of the ordinary citizen to support his own State and local institutions. I am not a student of the University of Virginia, but I am a citizen of West Virginia, and I am a citizen of Pocahontas county, and I am a citizen of Clarkburg, and I am a citizen of the West Virginia, and I am a citizen of the United States, and I am a citizen of the world.

Indictments
and
The Test Oath

the war between the states, there
construction judge was a carpetbag-
ger from Vermont or New Hamp-
shire by the name of Nat Harrison.
He had come into prominence some-
what as attorney for defense in the
last trial for piracy on the high seas.
This was in a Federal Court in New
York. The brilliant young lawyer
won decision to clear his clients of
the charge.

About fifteen years after the cele-
brated trial, Attorney Nat Harrison
turns up at Lewisburg as the Circuit
Judge for the Greenbrier Valley
counties. To say the least, he was
an unlovely character. One item in
many counts our people hold against
Judge Harrison was his having the

The space is all used up and not a
word about that local Clarksburg in-
stitution, Wade Pepper, writer ex-
traordinary for the Clarksburg Expo-
nent; Carlisle Wade, a Marlinton boy
making good with the West Penn;
who was so nice to me; how I missed
seeing Forrest McNeill by a day, like
has happened every time so often the
past forty years; how Paul McNeill,
another Pocahontas product, treated
me so kindly.

I did the best I knew how to please.
I started out in a lady-like glow; soon
I perspired in a gentlemanly way,
and wound up sweating like a horse.
I am not going back unless they ask
me.

State of West Virginia

*Report of Droop Mountain
Battlefield Commission*



JOHN D. SUTTON, Chairman
N. F. KENDALL, Secretary—
R. F. KIDD -
A. L. HELMICK
M. M. HARRISON -
Members

CHARLESTON, W. VA.
1928

Report of the Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission

The Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission respectfully submits the following report: That on the 25th day of January, 1927, House Joint Resolution No. 8, was adopted, which is as follows.

"Providing for the appointment of a commission for the battlefield on Droop Mountain."

Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:

WHEREAS, One of the hard fought battles of the Civil War occurred on Droop Mountain on December 19, 1862, a battle in which West Virginia soldiers took part and fought to a partial victory; and,

WHEREAS, The intervening years have obliterated many of the scars of that battle, yet there are still living old soldiers and citizens who can mark out the various positions of the different regiments, battalions and companies that were engaged in the battle; and,

WHEREAS, Droop Mountain is a very high elevation overlooking the valley of the Greenbrier River, the little levels of Pocahontas County, and the far off peaks of the Alleghany Mountains, making it one of the most beautiful scenic spots in West Virginia; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Governor be requested to appoint a committee of five, three from the House and two from the Senate, whose duty it will be to look over the battlefield, temporarily mark the battle lines and secure all necessary information from the old soldiers and citizens yet living in the community, that everything authentic may be preserved for future generations. The committee shall ascertain the owners of the land upon which the battle was fought and take a conditional option on some part of such land, of not less than fifty acres, at a price that seems reasonable to the committee.

The members of the committee shall be paid their actual expenses incurred in carrying out this resolution.

Pursuant to the Joint Resolution aforesaid and in compliance therewith, your Excellency on the 21st day of April, 1927, appointed a commission as follows:

From the House of Delegates:

John D. Sutton of Sutton, West Virginia.

N. F. Kendall of Grafton, West Virginia.

M. M. Harrison of Confidence, West Virginia.

From the Senate:

A. L. Helmick of Thomas, West Virginia.

Robert F. Kidd of Glenville, West Virginia.

That your Commission met on the 28th day of April, 1927, in the City of Charleston, and organized by the election of John D. Sutton as chairman and N. F. Kendall as Secretary.

Figure 1

commence to be moving within the community, and to be a factor in the preparation of the public school system. The impact points in the past have been the Negro, the Chinese, and the Japanese. The Chinese and the Japanese have been the most important points in the past, but the Negro has been the most important point in the West.

[illegible]

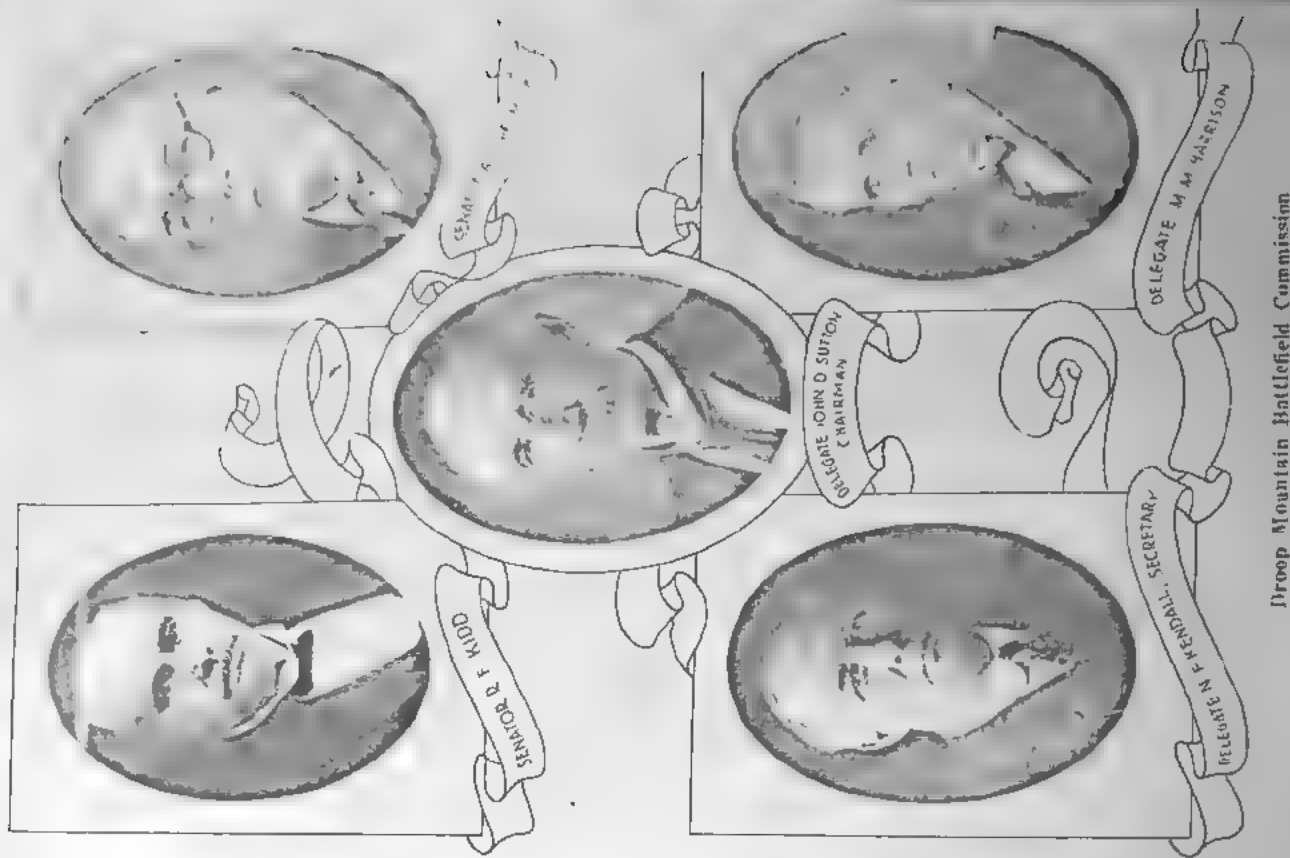
the afternoon of the 27th the Commission met in session at the residence of Mrs. Rebecca B. Mackrity, which is located on the farm where the man and constructive battle was fought. All of the and of the and on present

I have never abated the letter and made a forty
thousand of the same. It comprises more than two thousand
pages.

overcoming in further reports that they stood on the summit of a high point, in a calm, quiet summer day, when the whole country came round at peace and there was nothing to disturb it. As yet, however, prior to that time those who were the first to see what the grays were engaged on that hill in our country, had the mystery of West Virginia, then in its infancy, been a riddle for what it seemed to be right and wrong to do with its actions in that bloody crime were Virginians. For the North and South ended their bitter quarrel, but no war was preserved, and the animosity engendered by each side was cast away at a universal peace remains a mystery to the present.

to the spot before us was one of indescribable beauty. A large number, he said, and fertile soil, the best for sugar-cane growing, and a great number of other valuable crops. Nowhere in all of our travels was there so scenic beauty or such a location for a great

... in your Commission decided that a part of ... be optioned for "A Battlefield State Park," ... the ground embraced in the McCarty farm, sub-



Brook Mountain Battlefield Commission

... .. in about four hundred and forty-acre acres, this covering the north was most largely wooded, and such portion was at to a reservation of fifteen acres around also the graveyard of one and here and made part of this report and was directed to send a copy of the option to your the matter of making a survey and of locating and important points of interest was left to the Chairman. further reports that the Chairman caused to be sent battel-aid, showing the location of the and position of the different units engaged therein, as other valuable information, which plat is filed here- part of this report.

... .. then adjourned to meet again at the call of the call was made by him for a meeting to be held at West Virginia, on the 28th day of December, 1927, at all the members were present, except Delegate At this meeting the scope of the report of the Commis- and the preparation of the report was dele- to Senator Kidd, with the aid of the Chairman and Secretary. It was the expressed intention to make the report very complete, and it should contain the photographs of your Excellency and of the Commission, and further contain the cuts and a brief graphic sketch of the leading officers engaged in that hotly contested battle, as well as photographic views of the field and of the Little Level Valley. That it also contain a picture of the old battle now standing, and further a recommendation for a lake and flying field, and that it also contain letters and interviews obtained from soldiers engaged in the battle and other interesting incidents connected therewith.

Your Commission further reports that all of the matters set forth are filed herewith or printed in this report and asked to be made part thereof.

The Commission reports that Droop Mountain is a high elevation about 1,000 feet above sea level, and contains several high peaks, the land is rolling, and is a limestone soil and the tract is about one-half cleared. The woodland contains some

The scenery from this mountain is beautiful, stretching northward is what is known as the Little Levels of Pocahontas County, and a magnificent view of the Alleghany Mountains and the Green

... .. through the myriad hills an of the Alleghany.

Prior to this battle there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in the Greenbrier Valley, which was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot, a distance of about one hundred seventy miles, and which protected Virginia from attacks from the west. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate forces, General Averell was directed to march from Beverly West Virginia, to Lewisburg and that it was while on this march he met the enemy at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought on the 6th day of November, 1863, between the forces commanded by General Averell, and the Confederates, led by General John Echols and Colonel William L. Jackson.

Your Commission further reports that this was the only battle where the forces were composed largely of West Virginia soldiers, and fought on West Virginia soil.

Droop Mountain is fourteen miles south of Marlinton, seven from Millpoint and four and one tenth miles from Hillsboro, and it is also ten miles from Ramo station, sixteen miles from Frankfort and twenty-four miles from Lewisburg. Your Commission further reports that Hills Creek, rising at the base of some high mountains, west of Droop Mountain, sinks and passes under Droop Mountain, near the middle of the battlefield, then emerges at the eastern edge where it is called Locust Creek. It flows about two miles to the Greenbrier River.

Reports Made by Participants

Your Commission sets out herein a partial report made at a battle by the leading officers who participated therein

General Averell's Report:

On the first day of November, I left Beverly with my command consisting of the 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Col. A. Moor, 1st West Virginia Infantry, Col. T. M. Harris, 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Lieut. Col. A. Scott, 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Lieut. Col. F. W. Thompson, 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Col. J. H. Oley, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry Col. J. N. Schoonmaker; Gibson's Battalion and Batteries B & C, 1st West Virginia Light Artillery, Capt. J. V. Keeper and C. F. Ewing.

On the morning of the 6th we approached the enemy's position. The infantry and one corps of cavalry was sent to the right to ascend a range of hills, with orders to attack the enemy's left and rear, the attack of our infantry, 1,175 strong, was conducted skillfully by Col. Moor.

The 2nd, 3rd and 8th, dismounted, were moved in line obliquely to the right, until their right was joined to Moor's left. Col. Moor says when he arrived in front of the enemy's position, at 1:45 p. m. he formed a line and ordered Col. Harris to move up in double quick, who arrived in the nick of time. "See first formation map."

Lieut. Col. Scott's Report

Lieut. Col. Alex. Scott, 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, says that at about 12 o'clock, having moved to the front, "I was ordered to dismount my command and fight on foot, and was ordered to take a position between the third and eighth. At this time we found the 3rd, 8th and 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry in line of battle, with Jackson's force. The 2nd, 3rd and 8th West Virginia Infantry, at once immediately in front of the breastworks."

I went into action with two hundred men; out of that number there were nine killed, fourteen wounded, two mortally, one of whom has since died, seven severely and five slightly.

Report of Colonel John Oley

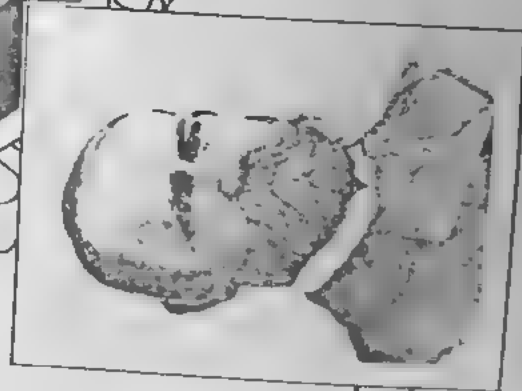
Eighth West Virginia Mounted Infantry. After taking my place with column on the morning of the 6th.



BRIG. GEN.
WM. L. JACKSON



BRIG. GEN.
JOHN ECHOLS



COL. W. P. THOMPSON

COMMANDING OFFICERS OF CONFEDERATE TROOPS

Droop Mountain Campaign Report

companies of the 23rd Battalion. Later, Colonel Patton was ordered to detach these companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry under Captain John K. Thompson. Colonel George S. Patton commanded Egan's Brigade. The 22nd Virginia went into action with five hundred and fifty strong, losing one hundred and thirteen in killed, wounded and missing. The 23rd Virginia Battalion, three hundred and fifty strong, lost sixty-one in killed, wounded and missing.

Three companies of the 22nd under Captain Thompson, one hundred and twenty-five strong, lost nine killed, thirty wounded, twelve missing. Battle ended at 4 p. m.

Report of Maj. Wm. Blessing, 23rd Virginia Battalion

"When the fighting became very severe I was ordered to march with six companies to the support of Captain Marshall, who, with one hundred and twenty-five dismounted cavalry, was being forced back on the left.

"We were then forced back to a fence at the Bloody Angle. We were then reinforced by three companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one dismounted company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry.

Report of Col. Thompson

Colonel Thompson, 19th Virginia Cavalry, says that he sent one hundred cavalry under command of Captain Marshall, the command consisting of the 19th and 20th Virginia Cavalry just then, Major Blessing commanding Denny's Battery, consisting of three hundred men, he having deployed his men on the right of the line formed by Captain Marshall.

Report of Col. W. Wiley, 20th Virginia Cavalry

Says that about 2 p. m. we were attacked by the 2nd, 3rd and 24th Virginia Mounted Infantry.

Report of Col. Milton J. Ferguson

Colonel Ferguson, 16th Virginia Cavalry, says that he reported to General Echols on the 5th of November, who was then on the march and arrived in the camp of Colonel Jackson at the eastern base of Droop Mountain, at 6 a. m. on the morning of the 6th. Our separation of the 14th Regiment was ordered to take position on the

Droop Mountain Campaign Report

old road at Lost Creek. The efficient men of six companies were dismounted, four companies placed on extreme left under command of Lieutenant Colonel Gibson and two companies in center. John D. Baxter, orderly sergeant of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry, was the first one to cross the line of the bloody angle, and fell mortally wounded inside the enemy's lines.

Letters Bearing Upon the Battle

Brownsville, Fayette County,
Pennsylvania

November 16, 1927.

DEAR SIR:

I saw your inquiry about Colonel Schoonmaker of Pittsburgh, in the *National Tribune* for the week of November 11. In reply I would inform you that he is dead. He died October 11th, eighty-six years of age. He died from the effects of an operation for appendicitis. I was with Colonel Schoonmaker in the Battle of Droop Mountain in the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Company E.

GEORGE W. ARNOLD.

Chapel, W. Va., July 12, 1927.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE:

I do not feel that I have health or the strength to meet you at the Droop Mountain Battlefield next week, much as I would love to. I hope you will be able to properly locate the field. If you could find some Confederate soldiers that were in the fight or native citizens who were acquainted might be helpful. As I remember the enemy were stationed in line of battle and we advanced on them. They soon left the patch, as I remember, during the hottest part of the fight. I was near the head of the Company where we joined Company A. Sergeant of Company A—I can't think of his name now—was killed near my side. Wheeler, Milt Rollinson and others were wounded near about the same time. When the enemy fled the company and regiment that were able followed in pursuit, I think, to Lewisburg. I confess that I was more concerned in what was going on than in noting the lay of the land. Please excuse the rambling. Hope you succeed.

Respectfully,

Drop Mountain, Coosima, Va., 1927.

Cottageville, Kentucky, May 9, 1927.

DEAR SIR AND COMRADE

Your letter just to hand having been forwarded to my Chaplain. My recollection of the Droop Mountain battle is that both regiments marched up the same road, the summit, the 28th in the lead, never the top about to be reached, and marched toward the enemy and soon to get the enemy's volley, was Companies A, B, D, and C, after which I am not sure, only Company B was the extreme left. I do not remember any troops on our right. I am only guessing from my recollection that the engagement began not later than 10 A.M. and ended by noon. I do not remember that there was a skitish line. I always thought our company struck the most formidable point in the position. I would love to go over the field but do not now feel that I will be able. Anything I can do will be cheerfully done. With best wishes.

HENRY BENDER.

NOTE: Captain Bender was mistaken as to the time the battle ended.

Progress, W. Va., April 30, 1927.

DEAR MR. SUTTON:

Your letter received the 19th inst.

The battle of Droop Mountain began about 10 o'clock A.M. and lasted about one hour, as well as I remember.

I belonged to Company F, 10th West Virginia Volunteer Infantry. My position battle ranks General William Jackson's troops were in front, and I do not remember about the skirmish line. Ninety-two prisoners were captured, and do not know the number killed.

My health will not permit my attending a meeting of the committee.

Very truly yours,

L. G. ENOELL.

NOTE: He was mistaken as to the length of the engagement.

Cottageville, W. Va., May 9, 1927.

MY DEAR OLD FRIEND:

I received your letter some time ago and was certainly glad to

CAPT. JACOB H. RIFE
COMPANY C

CAPT. EDGAR D. BLUNDON
COMPANY D
(PROMOTED TO MAJOR)

CAPT. FRANCIS MATHERS
COMPANY E

CAPT. ELIAS DOWELL
COMPANY F

CAPT. WILSON
COMPANY G

CAPT. NICHOLS
COMPANY H

CAPT. JAMES S. CASTADY
COMPANY I

CAPT. WILSON
COMPANY J

CAPT. WILSON
COMPANY K

CAPT. WILSON
COMPANY L

CAPT. WILSON
COMPANY M

CAPT. WILSON
COMPANY N

THE 10TH WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTED INFANTRY, LATER CHANGED TO 7TH WEST VIRGINIA CAVALRY

Drop Mountain Commission Report

from you. I would have answered sooner but my health is very poor and I have been ill for several weeks. Now, as I am feeling better, I will try and write a few lines, giving you the information.

We camped as you will remember, in front of Joe Beard's at the foot of Drop Mountain. The next morning at dawn we broke camp and started across the fields toward a low gap in the mountain in hope of gaining the pike behind the Confederates, on the west side of the mountain. We were led by Austin Brown, Ike Brown and Mose Stalley, former residents of that locality. Before reaching the low gap on top of the mountain we ran into the Confederates in the woods. The battle now begins it being about ten o'clock. The 10th West Virginia was in front, followed by the 28th. When we struck the Confederates we faced south. The battle raged along the top of the mountain southward.

I was wounded near the pike, 60 or 80 yards distance from it, at the close of the battle. The Confederate who shot me was a very wounded man and was resting on a log. He shot me as I was on my way to try and disarm him. The other boys were wounded when the low gap and the place where the pike crosses the mountain. The battle ceased sometime between twelve and one o'clock. The dead and wounded were carried away to Joe Beard's home, where they had erected a temporary hospital.

I am the only 10th West Virginia soldier left in Jackson County. Are W. P. and Sigs Morrison still living?

I was glad to hear that Captain Bender was still alive, and pleased to know that you are well and strong. I have always felt indebted to you for saving my life at Bolivar Heights. As regards my family, we are all well, my children are scattered, some being in Ohio and some in West Virginia, while my eldest son lives in Florida. I would like to see you once more and talk over our old war days. Come over to Cottageville with Eugene Slaughter sometime. Drive over from Sutton. My faith is clear and strong in Christ and for a home in Heaven.

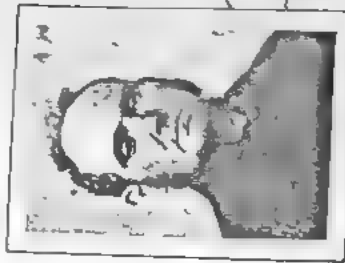
Write me soon again. Best regards to you and family.

Your old comrade,

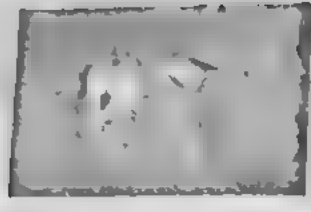
JOHN A. BLAND.

NOT. The 28th Ohio was formed in line of battle and was engaged with the enemy when the 10th West Virginia came up. See Colonel Blair's official report.

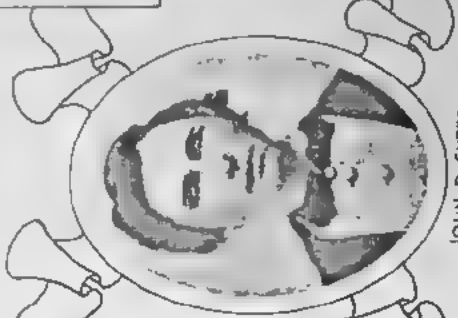
SOME PARTICIPANTS IN THE BATTLE OF DROOP MOUNTAIN



A. W. GREGG
CHAPLAIN
8TH W. VA. MTD. INFANTRY



HENRY H. HAYS
MAJOR
10TH W. VA. INFANTRY



JOHN D. SUTTON
CO. F, 10TH W. VA. INFANTRY



JOHN D. BAXTER
ORDERLY SGT
CO. F, 10TH W. VA. INF.
FELL LEADING
LAST CHARGE



HENRY HAYS
MAJOR
10TH W. VA. INFANTRY



C. W. ANGEL
1ST LIEUT. CO. M
8TH W. VA. MTD. INFANTRY



J. E. SWAAR
2ND LIEUT. CO. G
8TH W. VA. MTD. INFANTRY

Readingville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania.

My Dear Sir and Comrades:

I saw by the *National Tribune* where you inquire for information of any of your comrades who was in the Battle of Droop Mountain I was in that battle.

I belonged to the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry. The 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry and the 2nd Virginia, 28th Ohio, Ewing's Battery of 1st Virginia Artillery, the 10th Virginia were sent around to the right to take the rear of the fort. The brigade was dismounted at the foot of the mountain and we had orders to lay down and wait for orders.

I belonged to Company E, 14th Pennsylvania, and was wounded in my right arm, August 7, 1864, from which there is four inches of bone removed. I am 81 years old, went to service when I was 16 years old. Was wounded at Moorefield, Virginia, also at Mt. Jackson, Virginia, in my finger.

GEORGE W. ARISON

Soldiers Home Hospital, July 14, 1927.

My Dear Sir and Comrades:

I see in the *National Tribune* that you wished to get in communication with some survivor of the Battle of Droop Mountain. I was a member of the 10th West Virginia Regiment Infantry and took part in that battle. We were on the right wing of our forces and seen as we located the enemy in thick timber we charged and routed them without any casualties on our part, but with heavy loss to the enemy. Until we came to an open space where the timber had been cut down. There we received a galling fire, and lost a number of men at that time. We then took shelter behind logs and timber, and that is where Sergeant Bird Curry lost his life. We were deprived to the right and routed the Johnnies, and that ended the battle.

Yours truly,

L. S. CLARK,
Co. A, 10th West Virginia Infantry.

My Dear Mr. Roberts:

I will try and answer you at this late date, as I was away at the attack of your letter, but will now try to do so.

In the morning of the 6th of November, as the day of the battle,

Glassaway, W. Va., April 27, 1927.

early in the morning the Union army began to move on the North side of the mountain. They moved down very early, but soon they were about 8 o'clock. Jackson moved his brigade of about 1,000 men, of the Droop, and at about 10 o'clock, skirted along the mountain, beginning on the eastern base of the Droop, and around southward near the Lost Creek Mt. and also near the Black Mountain. General Jackson arrived with his brigade in the direction of Lewisburg, between 8 and 9 o'clock, and Colonel Jackson was near the same time, with the 14th Virginia Cavalry. Jackson's men, with most of his men occupied the southern part of the mountain, but Derrieks Battalion was placed on the north of the left wing of W. L. Jackson, and the 14th Cavalry was placed on the main top of the main mountain near the turnpike in rear of the artillery. General Jackson's artillery was placed north of the turnpike. His line of battle continued from the turnpike eastward around to Hills Creek, including the line of Derrieks skirmishers, as stated commenced at about 1 o'clock. Fighting fiercer and fiercer began in earnest and ended at or near 4 or 4:30 in the evening.

General Averell moved his men very near the top of Droop, the men were surprised, but I was not. I told the General but I was too late with the news. That is why I was there in the charge to call Colonel Derriek to fall back. I lost my horse by it, and was captured to boot, but got away before they got off the mountain. I belonged to Company B, 26th Virginia Cavalry, W. L. Jackson's Brigade. I was a courier and then knew nearly all the southern lines of battle.

The regiments in front of the center, east of Droop Mountain, that I knew was there was the 14th Pennsylvania the 8th and 10th Cavalry, the 10th West Virginia and 28th Ohio. These two regiments done the heavy part of the fighting. All lines that I came in contact with that day had skirmish lines. As to prisoners captured on either side, I don't remember. But there was forty captured when I was. I might be able to be present and attend a meeting of the Committee at some time this year. I can't just say.

You must be light on considering or criticizing my pened scratching, as my eyes are very bad.

Yours respectfully,

MARION BETHUNE.

Notes: The bones of the horse have been discovered.

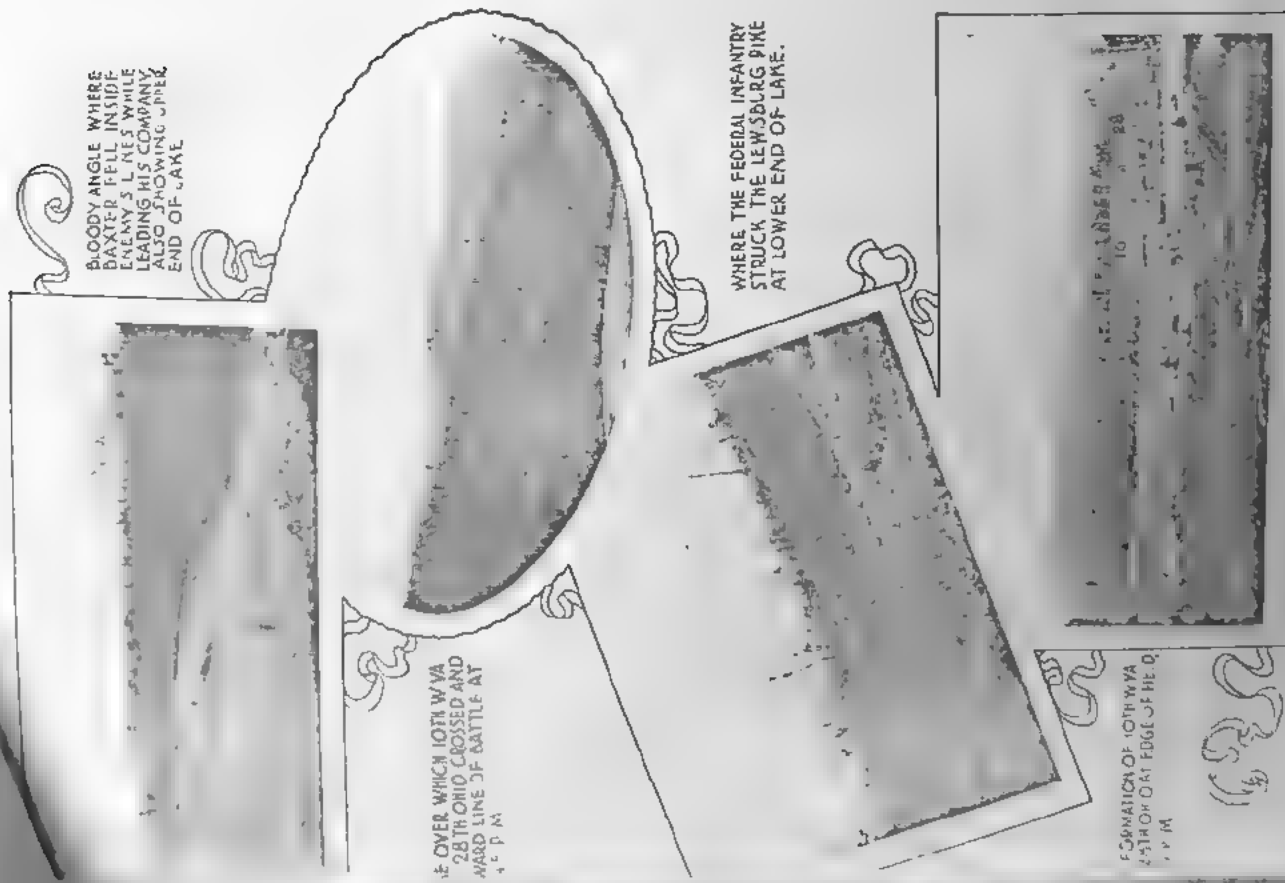
Incidents

[illegible]

Milton Butler, who was Jackson's conveyer, carried the order that his chief gave. The order was to "shoot her dead, ' ' fall back to pike, west of vicinity." He obeyed the order but his horse was killed and he was captured by them.

Major Kester, who commanded the 46th Battalion, was in front of the 28th Ohio. He stopped their advance and they were giving back, whereupon Kester shouted to his men to stand firm for two minutes saying they were whipped, but before the two minutes were up the 10th West Virginia coming up as 'Colonel Moor says in his report, "just in the nick of time," turned the tide of battle, and the Major found it more convenient to run than stand.

About this time, the Confederate line was reinforced by four companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry dismounted. They poured a deadly fire from behind a fall fence into the ranks of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, and especially into Company F, which happened to be in an exposed position, and many of its members were being shot down, and many wounded and some of its members began to fall back. Their Captain was in prison and the First Lieutenant was on staff duty, and the company had but one commanding officer, Lieutenant Henry Bender. John D. Baxter, the orderly sergeant was in advance of the company. At this point our chairman saw the combination of the company and went up to Baxter and requested him to get back and help line up the company. To this request Baxter never replied, but rushed up and kicked two or three rails off of the fence and Lucy both jumped over the fence and Baxter received a mortal wound. W. F. Morrison, W. M. Barnett and John A. Blagg we believe were the next to cross the fence, and while crossing Blagg was badly wounded and Barnett had a leg shot off. Morrison escaped unharned. The man who shot Barnett gave his life



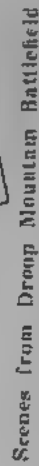
new from Drop Mountain Knitfield

KILLED

Five killed and twenty-one wounded in 28th Ohio; their orderly sergeant, Company F, killed.

Since attention has been called to the Droop Mountain Battle field great interest has been shown all over the State, and being situated as it is on one of the paved highways of the State, no great attraction can be shown than the great scenic views of the mountains and rivers, and the rich valley, lying at its base, together with the battle field, will make Droop Mountain one of the nation's leading attractions, and will advertise West Virginia, as nothing else could do.

We wish to call your attention to the fact that the effort that is being put forth for the development and beautifying the battlefield has met the hearty response of every old soldier, living or dead, army, and has the universal approval of the citizens of the State.



	7 IN	MOUNTED	/ MOUNTED AT TOWN.
P.A. CAVALRY INFANTRY			INFANTRY MOUNTED TO

The West Virginia Historical Society at a recent meeting, held in Charleston, passed the following resolution:

Resolved: That we, the West Virginia Historical Society, earnestly commend the Droop Mountain Battle Field Commission for their labors and zeal in securing title to the land on which the battle was fought, and for the work that has been done and the effort that is being made for the improvement and beautifying one of the greatest natural scenic views of the State, and that funds should be appropriated to carry on the work that the Commission has begun.

Resolved: That the thanks of the Society are hereby extended to Governor Gore for the aid he has given the Battlefield Commission in its work, and

Resolved, further, That the memory of the brave men, of both armies, who fought the memorable battle of Droop Mountain, should be perpetuated for all time by monuments and parks, and the battle's history, and that the State should no longer neglect this historic battlefield in beautifying a spot, drenched with the blood of her own sons, around which cluster so many sacred memories of the dead."

Your Commission further reports that the land optioned is not complete, nor can it be made so, without acquiring the fifteen acres reserved. This your commission would recommend should be done, at a reasonable price, to be agreed upon by the parties in interest.

We wish to call special attention to the topography of the mountain. There is a straight ridge running north and south, through the greater part of the land optioned. This ridge is smooth and rises to the north and would make a fine field for airplanes to operate.

Another matter of special interest is an ancient lake that was discovered by the Chairman of your Commission. Its outline is plainly marked and shows it to have been a magnificent lake of water, but the countless ages have encroached upon its shores, until it is covered over with elder brush, moss and vines. Its waters flow out from the end of the lake, and with two small fills would, in all probability, be sufficient to impound the waters, to a depth of several feet, and a driveway around the lake would be about one mile in length, and we believe that the magnitude of the lake, covering about fifteen acres, would support millions of mountain trout.

Your Commission would recommend that the land optioned should be purchased and a deed obtained and the title to the fifteen

acres reserved should likewise be obtained. The fact that the Droop Mountain may be made by the State of the lands and to carry on the work of improvement by the State, is a fact to be borne in mind that the money to be expended and that the large area of land to be purchased for the purpose of the work, and that the State should be impounded and had suitable highways and other improvements be purchased as an improvement of the State, and that the park may be established and maintained and that the State should be to those in other States.

Your Commission would further recommend that the money call be attention of the Governor of the State, and to the very valuable service rendered by the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Schenck, and the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Moor, as these states might desire to perpetuate the memory of those brave men by a suitable monument or monuments placed on the battle lines where they fought.

Your Commission here expresses the belief that by the expenditure of a reasonable sum of money on the Droop Mountain Battle field that it would become such an attractive resort and of a value to the State beyond estimation in dollars and cents, and that the same would produce a patriotic sentiment that would forever be blended and clustered around the field that holds so many sacred memories.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

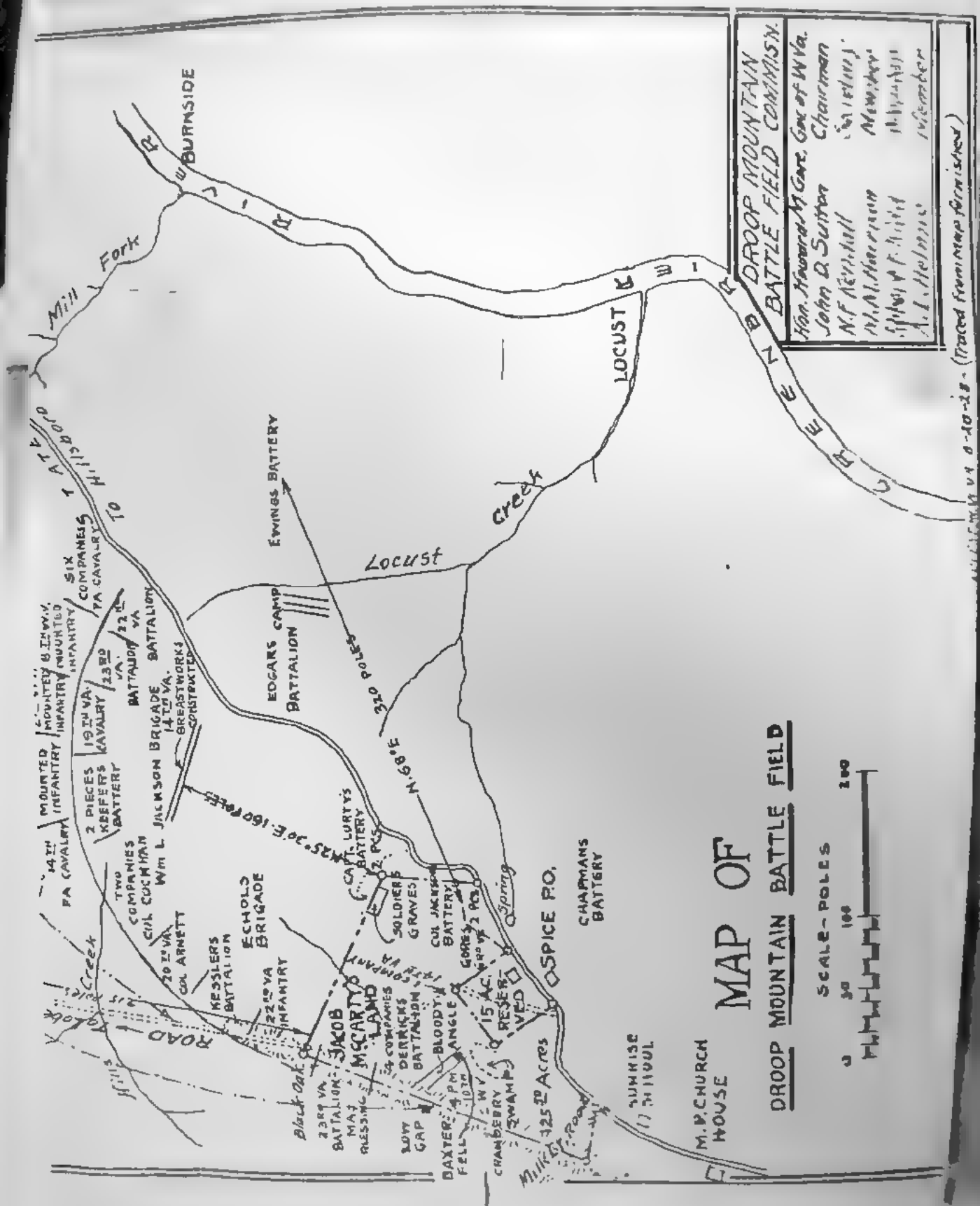
JNO. D. SUTTON
N. F. KENDALL
R. F. KING
M. M. HARRISON
A. L. HELMICK

The Droop Mountain Battle

(A paper prepared by John D. Sutton)

After the country was freed from Indian invasions and Virginia became established, the people began to look more to their financial affairs and public interests. It was not long until those west of the Alleghenys became jealous of their eastern brethren. Tobacco was the money crop of the east, raised by slave labor, whilst those west of the mountains depended for many years upon fires and gunpowder as their principal commodity in trade. And as it has been from the beginning of time taxation began to be agitated. The great body of the east escaped very largely from their equal share of the burden, but controlled very largely the political affairs of the state. The western portion of the state was powerless. Their only relief was in separation. The Civil War afforded them that opportunity; hence when the war came on, 32,000 of the young men of Western Virginia joined the Union forces. Though they were living in a slave state the great majority refused to answer the call of Virginia, and when the 20th of June, 1863, came, and West Virginia was admitted as a state into the union, the defenders of the new state were determined to sustain and defend the state at whatever cost of blood and treasure. The south was as fully determined to retain the territory of the state, and to prevent the re-union of the state—a state for which we all have the most profound love and respect. But a sacrifice had to be made and the battle was joined—a battle of separation. The best blood of Virginia and West Virginia, men who had met on many bloody battlefields prior to the great Battle of Droop Mountain, soldiers inured to hardship and dangers, not soldiers of fortune, not soldiers for spoil, but men in whose breasts was a living principle, a principle implanted in their youth by their fathers. At a distance, it would look like common consent that the forces were to be assembled for a final test of strength. General Averell, with a very formidable force, left Beverly on November 1st, to find the enemy and give battle wherever he might be found. General Win L. Jackson, commanding a brigade and several other units, battalions and companies, was joined by General Echols on the morning of the 14th by a splendid brigade of fighting men. General Averell encountered the Confederates in force near Mill Point on the morning of the 15th and drove them to the foot of Droop Mountain, and there

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camped for the night. On the morning of the 6th of April, 1862, they threw out a strong skirmish line that cleared his force to the foot of the Mountain. About 9 A. M. the 14th W. Va. Inf., 2nd, 3rd and 4th Regts. and one company of the 14th Pa. Cav. and two pieces of Ewing's Bn. Art. were sent around on a back road $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles above they formed, and struck the enemy in force. Here is where the principal and hardest part of the battle was fought, and in passing over one small plot of cleared land, not comprising more than one acre, fifteen were killed and forty-seven were wounded. Some of those wounded died, later, so if in this battlefield covering nearly two thousand acres of land and fought on by seven thousand determined soldiers, what would the casualty list have been if the land had been cleared. According to numbers, it might have been a second Lookout Mountain, a Fredericksburg, or a battle of great slaughter. Providence was kind, whilst the Mountain State was baptized in blood. Averell then formed the 2nd, 3rd and 4th W. Va. Mounted Infantry, with a portion of the 14th Pa. Cavalry in line of battle, who succeeded in driving the Confederate forces, composed of the 22nd Va. Inf. and 19th Va. Cav. and other units up the mountain, near the summit. While further on the left of the Confederate line we find a portion of Colonel Averell's regiment, 20th Va., Colonel ... commanding. Kesler's Battalion, 23rd Va., Major Blessing; four companies Derrick's battalion, a portion of the 22nd Va. Inf. Some of these units have been twice routed because, as the fighting became more severe on the Confederate left, they weakened their right by sending reinforcements to strengthen their left. I give it as my opinion, knowing the spirit of the men who fought that battle, that if the army had not been protected by a dense forest that fifty per cent of the men engaged would have been slaughtered.

The forces engaged in the Battle were composed of twelve Confederate units, regiments, battalions and independent companies.

While the Union forces were composed of nine units, regiments and battalions, there was but a slight difference in the numbers comprising the two armies, the 10th West Virginia infantry and the 2nd Ohio that comprised the flanking party and did the principal fighting was officially reported as 1175 soldiers while the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Confederate, was reported officially at 350 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Captain Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Captain Derring's battalion 300, and Major Kesler's battalion and other units composed a very

camped for the night. On the morning of the 6th, General Averell threw out a strong skirmish line that cleared his front to the foot of the Mountain. About 9 A. M. the 10th W. Va. Inf., 28th Ohio Inf. and one company of the 14th Pa. Cav. and two pieces of Ewing's Battery were sent around on a back road $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles where they formed, and struck the enemy in force. Here is where the principal and hardest part of the battle was fought, and in passing over one small plot of cleared land, not comprising more than one acre, thirteen were killed and forty-seven were wounded. Some of those wounded died later, so if in this battlefield covering nearly two thousand acres of land and fought on by seven thousand determined soldiers, what would the casualty list have been if the land had been cleared. According to numbers, it might have been a second Lookout Mountain, a Fredericksburg, or a battle of great slaughter. Providence was kind, whilst the Mountain State was baptized in blood. Averell then formed the 2nd, 3rd and 8th W. Va. Mounted Infantry, with a portion of the 14th Pa. Cavalry in line of battle, who succeeded in driving the Confederate forces, composed of the 22nd Va. Inf. and 19th Va. Cav. and other units up the mountain, near the summit. While further on the left of the Confederate line we find a portion of Colonel Averell's regiment, 20th Va., Colonel.....commanding, Kesler's Battalion, 23rd Va., Major Blessing; four companies Derrick's battalion, a portion of the 22nd Va. Inf. Some of these units have been twice named because, as the fighting became more severe on the Confederate left, they weakened their right by sending reinforcements to strengthen their left. I give it as my opinion, knowing the spirit of the men who fought that battle, that if the army had not been protected by a dense forest that fifty per cent of the men engaged would have been slaughtered.

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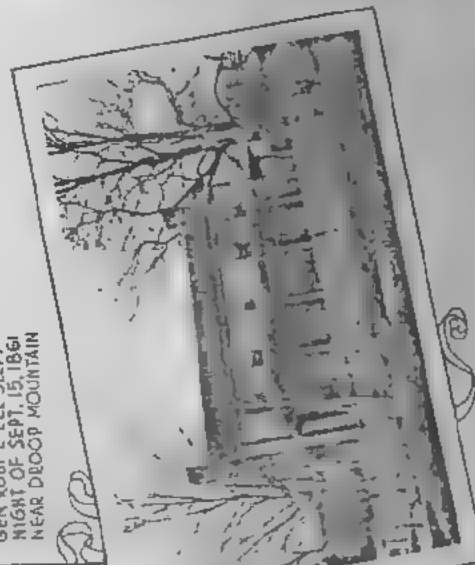
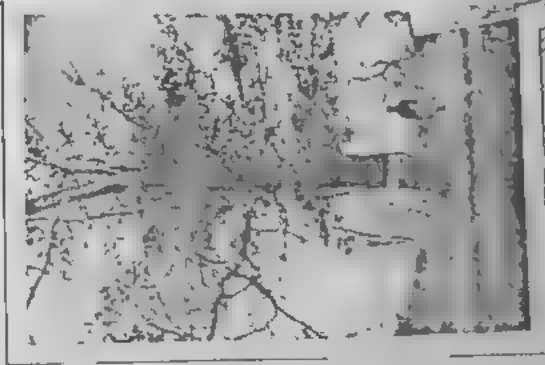
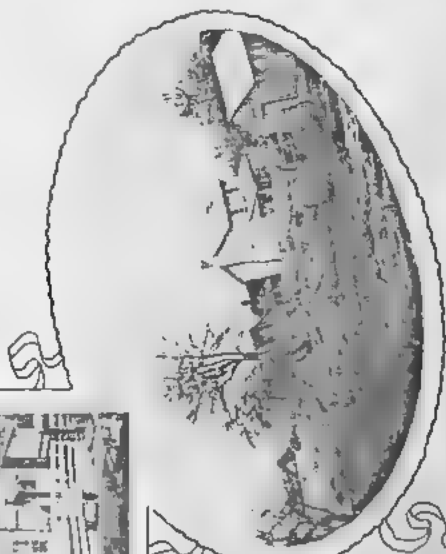
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ellegant fighting force. These units were composed of one unit each of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

What trained the tide of battle was the neglect of the general to fortify his position and protect his flank. As a result of superior ability, took advantage of the situation and secured the flank of the enemy, who has infantry and cavalry, but such a slight margin for loss as the which caused the loss.

All that saved the Confederates from being cut off was the fact that they had protected their left flank. If Generals Jackson and Pickett had fortified the back road over which the Hanoverians were attacking and protected their lines by falling timber and temporary fortifications on the mountain side, when they became about half time to day, their position would have been impregnable. They were helped by a mountain as of but slight advantage to those defending it, that they were not protected by breast works. When the Tenth West Virginia Infantry succeeded in gaining a position on the left of the Confederate line, the Confederate commander seeing their peril and danger of being cut off, ordered a retreat. The roads being lined with cavalry, artillery and wagon trains caused much confusion. The Union victory was not the result of a lack of numbers on the Confederate side, nor to the gallantry of her soldiers, but a lack on the part of the Confederate commanders to comprehend the situation and take advantage of their position.

Now we run to another phase of the history of Group M, a plain We reason from analogy and from prehistoric evidence, that Brown Mountain has been a battlefield of some prehistoric race, to be the early Indian tribes of America. We read from journals of Capt. Win. Trent, who says that the Shawnees were the most numerous of all the people inhabiting the region east of the Mississippi, and that they fill out the race of the Six Nations and for half a century they existed in various branches. The Indians were a powerful nation. It is said they were the only Indians that ever waged a successful war with the Six Nations. The Delaware Nation consisted of five tribal organizations. They were driven by the Six Nations from the Delaware river to the Susquehanna, then to the Maryland and Kentucky rivers. Heberle says that the Ughaw and Delaware Indians were said to have been engaged in war along the valley of Virginia was first of several successful bloody battles were fought between those tribes in the Potomac. Other battles occurred on Southern and Northern Virginia, and near Washington, Pennsylvania, according to



Scenes from Droop Mountain Battlefield

DRUOP MOUNTAIN COMMISSION REPORT

tradition, a battle occurred between the Indians on Cow Pasture River near Millborough in Bath county. We see that near and on every side of Droop Mountain Indian battles occurred, and there is every reason to believe that possibly many battles were fought on the Droop. It was not only a fortress, but a supply of war material rich and inexhaustible.

I am impressed with the thought that in the ages long gone by that some of the western or southern tribes of North America had one of their strong defensive outposts on the Droop Mountain.

There are unmistakable evidences of it in the rich valley at the foot of the mountain where in the rich, level land supplies were abundant and where their warriors could be assembled to a naturally fortified position in the plains at the foot of the Droop Mountain excavations, where thousands of tons of rough flints have been removed.

And on the top of the mountain in a field by the edge of the lake the ground is covered with spears and arrowheads, a field where the natives have gathered thousands of the Indian handiwork and the chips and spalls to this day cover the ground.

This must have been a great military camping ground for the warriors of the forest by the side of a lake where the waters flow up cold and sparkling. I imagine in this ancient lake there were countless millions of trout from which these warriors feasted and from the valleys and rivers. And rich hunting ground. Supplies were abundant to feed the warriors, whose duty it was to protect the rich hunting grounds. And this the metropolis of the assembled tribes it is known that in the ages of the past different tribes, fierce and warlike, fought with desperation and relentless fury over the possession of favored territory. For time unknown the tribes of the north and those of the south were at enmity.

Droop Mountain was doubtless one of the strongest strategic position on the spurs of the Allegheny mountains. Droop Mountain points with unmistakable evidence to the metropolis of some powerful and war-like nation and we doubt not that the very ground over which the soldiers of the sixties fought with such courage and during was one made red with the blood of the savage, a war-like people long since extinct.

The evidence they left is crude but distinct. Let us in the name of a history-loving people, living in the pride of a great age, mark this historic battlefield, dedicated to the freedom of West Virginia, with monuments of granite embellished in art that will forever commemorate the imperishable memory and heroism of the sons of our beloved State.

case dragged along for years. The case just naturally went by the board when the new state (W. Va.) went democratic in 1870, a new constitution adopted, and the rights of southern sympathizers restored. Captain Stofer was defended by Arthur Dayton. Mr. Dayton also successfully defended any other Confederate soldiers who were indicted for murder after the Civil War in Pocahontas County.

Pocahontas Times -- July 9, 1931.

They talk about the days of Reconstruction as being trying times. In my opinion the days of reconstruction dating from 1867 to the Reconstruction Act were not half so perilous to the continuance of the country as the two years from 1865-1867.

Here on the home farm, five sons showed up in 1865, and one had perished in the war. The instant need of things were rail fences, live stock, and a crop of corn. Like most soldiers all they asked or hoped for was a chance to get to work again. Instead they felt that they were under the shadow of serving time in prison for treason.

From- Pocahontas Times- Jan 16, 1930
By, Calvin Price. He has reference to the Price family - his father and five uncles.

In many families none of the sons returned as was the case in the Price family. They sent two sons into the service, both were killed. From the Cooper family there were five sons enlisted. Two, George and Robert were killed. James lost an arm and the other two were wounded. Their names were John and Charles. And so it was with so many of the families.

Price History.

These "Rebels" represented, to a large extent, the landed property owners of Pocahontas county. When these returned from their service, it was to find much of their property demolished, their confederate money worthless, and in 1866 they were deprived of their right of vote.

In 1870 those persons who had been disfranchised were again given the privilege to vote, and the old County Court was reestablished as it had existed prior to 1863.

From - Index to Records of Poca County

In Pearl Buck's Book "The Exile" which is a story of her mother Caroline Stulting who lived at Hillsboro, she tells many things that happened in that vicinity during the Civil War. The Stultings were surrounded by slave owning families, yet they had been taught to have a horror of owning human beings, and since they owned no slaves felt they had no right of fight. Yet they were to loyal to Virginia to fight against her and so declared themselves neutral. This of course did not make them popular and there was some threatening murmur against them. Yet none of their neighbors came out openly against them. However there came a day when a band of southern soldiers came for the son Cornelius, who was an able bodied young man. When he refused to go they undertook to force him to go. They got him on a horse, but his mother clung to his leg and refused to let go. They were thus-forced to let him go. He went to a cabin on Droop Mountain and for the two remaining years of the war lived there alone. He raised food and took it to his family at night. Therefore when the Little Levels was swept by the passing southern armies, when fields ere devastated and barns and stores robbed, the Stultings had food.

Then there was the dreadful day when north and south met in the battle of Droop Mountain. Cornelius was forced to hide in a cave that day and when night came made his way home his clothes torn and his hands and bare legs badly scratched. But his little field was ruined by cannon balls.

... still. For a short time after the slaves were freed, they ...
... abroad, and that Cornelius had to join the Ku Klux Klan for a
while to get the freed slaves to let them alone. (So far I have not been able
to find any reference to the K.K.K. in any other writings, but most of the
slaves were in the Little Levels and they perhaps had an organization for a
short time.)

She tells that the armies at first were gay and assured, then shaken and
surprised, then vegeful and desperate, and at last despairing and vanquished.
yet more dreadful than these were the armies of the victors, sweeping triumph-
hant over the fertile fields, devistating conquerors.

When defeat was accepted, a fever to begin life was everywhere present.
During these four years there had been no school as the men had been fighting
and the women striving to keep the home together. Therefore, there had been
no time to think of education, There were no shops nothing to be bought every-
thing had to be produced at home.

From- The Exile - Buck.

was the Lieutenant. He said to be a good of the County. He paid the bills for the... He notes a balance of \$43.88...

The item of expense was \$37.32... On May 20, at I. W. Marshall's... On May 22, at Beverly, from A & B Crawford, two hats for \$3.25...

On May 24, Elder Douglas was paid \$4.33 for supper, lodging and breakfast for 13 persons.

On May 25, \$2.50 is paid Jun. B. Curran for Gilliam tactics.

On May 17, Captain Stofor certifies that an account of Wm. H. Sanker... Mr. Skeen started off his to keep a daily report on the progress of the...

In speaking of this march, the old soldiers referred to it as the "Tin Can Campaign". A cup was all the equipment furnished them. They provided their own arms.

The cavalry referred to was Captain Andrew McNeel's Company. On their return from Philippl, this company was disbanded and the men joined the 11th Virginia - Bath Squad...

and Captain J. W. Marshall's company... The men with a number of anti...

1st Lieutenant...

This company was engaged in... The last letter of Company I, to pass over that I know of was Captain J. W. Matthews, of Antioch, Va., who died about two years ago.

Captain Stofor came from the Valley of Virginia. He was a lawyer, and he served as commonwealth's attorney for Pocahontas a number of terms. He had been a soldier in the Mexican war, and fought in a number of battles. My recollection is that Captain Stofor was not wounded in the war between the states until the battle of Cross Keys when he fell with five bullet holes in him. Every one of these wounds was considered mortal, but he recovered and survived the war some twenty years. As a child, I remember him as a friendly,

courteous gentleman, known in his wide circle of friends as the "Count."

General William Skeene served as clerk of both the county and circuit courts. He was succeeded just before the war by the late William Curry. He was a resident attorney at Huntersville for many years. He was elected Attorney General of the State of Virginia.

I certainly do wish that General Skeene had written up the "Tin Can Campaign" day by day. Instead of quitting off on the record the evening of the third day.

You have got to hand it to the General that he was a considerable of a manager to march an army of fifty men some ninety miles, and back on a campaign of several weeks, at a cost to Pocahontas County of only \$89.08.

After the war Confederate soldiers were deprived of the rights of citizenship by their inability to take the test oath. Before a man could vote, hold office, practice law, etc., he must swear that he had not aided or abetted the Confederacy. This did not phase Captain Stofor a bit. At the first opportunity he presented himself at the bar as a practicing attorney, took the oath and resumed his law work where he left off after four years service in the army of the Confederate States of America. The

he appeared to the Supreme Court, where the case dragged along for years. I presume that the case against the Captain was naturally settled by the time when the new state went into effect in 1871. A new constitution was adopted and the rights of the soldiers were guaranteed. I would not that case up some day when I have the time. I have the original in the Court Stofor was defended by Spencer Dayton, a native of New England father of the late Judge A. G. Dayton of Philippl. United States District Judge. I do know that Mr. Dayton successfully defended the numerous Confederate soldiers who were indicted for murder after the war in this county.

My friend, the late Hugh P. McLaughlin, a wayside delinquent in relating his experiences as a boy on this "Tin Can Campaign". Some were along the road to Philippl. They came to a farm where there was a mowing machine with its tongue propped up in a shed. Few of them had ever seen a mower, and word was passed down the ranks that it was a cannon. One boy took a good look at it, and remarked on the length of the record.

Pocahontas Times
1/16/41

After The Civil War.

Because of the division of sentiment Pocahontas County suffered far more than other counties farther north or south. In many instances of brother against brother. After the war was over, it was a subject not talked about because of the intense feeling that survived the war.

It used to be the Confederates grit their teeth when they saw the Union soldiers wear their blue army overcoats. When the first grand jury met, after the war, the blue overcoats predominated and the Confederates said it looked like a squad of Union soldiers.

(My grandfather I. W. Poage would never wear blue nor allow any member of his family to do so. He always said "You look too much like a ---- Yankee".)

When the first grand jury met was a sad day for the Confederates for most of the prominent Confederate warriors were indicted upon charges ranging from murder down. But the resentment occasioned by the war became somewhat mollified by the wisdom of the leading men and a condition of toleration was produced. While the soldiers continued to vote as they had shot, it was nothing more than healthy rivalry, and they worked together very well.

From 1925 W. Va. Blue Book.

B. Andrew Price.

After the Civil War the Confederate soldiers were deprived of the rights of citizenship by their inability to take the test oath. Before a man could vote, hold office, practice law and so forth, he must swear that he had not aided or abetted the Confederacy. This did not please Captain D. A. Snider who had been captain of the "Pocahontas Rescuers" and of Co. 1, 2nd Virginia Inf. At the first opportunity he presented himself at the bar as a practicing attorney, took the oath and resumed his law work, where he lived off. After ten years of service in the army of the Confederate States. The grand jury indicted him for perjury and he appealed to the Supreme Court, where the

DROOP MT. STATE PARK

On top of picturesque Droop Mountain, about four miles from the little town of Hillsboro, in West Virginia, CCC Camp Price, Co. 2,598 have done some wonderful work on the State Park.

It was on this site that the greatest battle of the Civil War in West Virginia was fought about 72 years ago. It is said that the only brass cannon that this part of the confederate army had lies buried in a swamp within a stone's throw of the camp. Although 72 years have elapsed since the great battle, many signs and memoirs of it are left. While rambling through the woods one may find the old rock breastworks which were used by the Confederate and Union soldiers alike.

About three miles from the camp there is a large cave in which soldiers manufactured gun powder. It is now known as "Saltpetre Cave." Occasionally old grave markers are found.

Although there are signs posted along Route 219 showing the position of the great battlefield, it has not yet received much attention from tourists because of the seemingly impossibility of exploration, as not much can be seen from the highway. This is an ideal place for picnic's, as the CCC boys have built chimneys for camp cooking, and seats and tables, etc. and have made the site of the battle one of the better known parks in West Virginia. Roads and trails have been built that lead to views that are entrancing.

Visitors are always welcome.

POCAHONTAS COUNTYBATTLES OF MILL POINT AND
DROOP MOUNTAIN

In November 1863 there were no Confederate forces of any size anywhere in West Virginia except in the Greenbrier Valley. That was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot, some 170 miles, by between four and five thousand soldiers, protecting Virginia from attack from the west.

General Kelly, in command of the department of West Virginia, gave orders to General Averill at Beverly and General Duffie at Gauley bridge to send armies to meet at Lewisburg and drive the Confederates out of the Greenbrier Valley.

Averill came into Pocahontas by the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike and turned south at Travelers Repose. At that time the Confederate troops were stationed as follows: At Glade Hill in the upper part of the county was Captain W. L. McNeel's Co., At Efray, Captain J. W. Marshall was in charge of a detachment watching the Marlins Bottom and Huttonsville Turnpike; Col. W. W. Arnett had a regiment at Marlins Bottom in comfortable log houses getting ready to winter there; Colonel W. L. Jackson had the main part of his regiment the 19th Virginia Cavalry at Mill Point; Col. W. P. Thompson was away with a part of his regiment on an expedition to Nicholas County and had gotten as far as Cold Knob in Greenbrier Co., Gen. Echols had the main part of the troops at Lewisburg.

McNeel's Co., at Glade Hill discovered the Advance of Averill and sent a messenger to warn Arnett at Marlins Bottom of the advance. Averill moved swiftly, and but for this courier getting through would have surprised the Confederates in their camps. As it was the McNeel Soldiers got too close and four were captured, and John McNeel had his horse shot and he got a broken leg out of it. The main camp of McNeel's Co. was cut off and they escaped by going up Galfords Creek and crossing the Allegheny Mountains to the waters of Back Creek.

Arnett got his men out of Marlins Bottom by the skin of his teeth as it was. he sent a soldier (cavalryman) to tell Captain Marshall at Burnsville that he was on the road on Price Hill, and for him to march the back way and come to the road on top of Price Hill. Arnett cut a lot of trees across the Price Hill road and dug some of the road away on that sliding hillside. The exciting days for this county, were Wednesday, Nov. 4, Thursday Nov. 5th; and Friday Nov. 6, 1863. What it was that the biggest battle ever fought in Pocahontas occurred. Arnett left Marlins Bottom at sun down on Wednesday and Col. Chley moved into his deserted log cabins at dusk.

There was only one road between Marlins Bottom and Mill Point, and Averill with his army at Huntersville had laid a plan to capture Arnett's forces by sending Chley down the river to get Arnett started south while Col. Harris moved his forces down Beaver Creek to get ahead of him and block the road at Marvin Chapel where the two roads unite. This plan would have succeeded but for Col. W. P. Thompson who had been recalled from Cold Knob with his cavalry and was unsaddling at his old camp on the John S. Hollison farm when Jackson's courier rode up and told him to hold the Beaver Creek road. Thompson immediately went to Beaver Creek, and spent the evening cutting trees across the road. He fell back firing as he went. This delayed the Federal Army to such an extent that Arnett got by.

On this expedition, Averill had with him some signal experts. It was arranged that the main corps would stay at Huntersville, while others went on to Marvin Chapel where they were to send up rockets to communicate the position and success of Col. Harris and his troops.

Merritt went to the top of the hill at Huntersville to observe the signals and Dornicke went on with troops to report. It was arranged that the rockets were to be sent up at 8 P. M. and Merritt waited on top of the knob until 10 P. M. and seeing no rockets he went back to headquarters. It afterwards appeared that Dornicke was not able to send up his rockets until 11 P. M. and they were not observed at Huntersville though the Confederates saw them red against the sky. They

...the capture in mountain warfare. The men and his blockading parties had interfered with the march so much that the army was three hours late.

Thursday Nov. 5, 1863, was Mill Point day. Mill Point has never been given the credit for the baptism by fire that she had that day because what occurred next day at Droop Mountain, five miles south, has overshadowed it to such a great extent.

There was enough powder burned that day at Mill Point to fight a great battle. The Federal armies were at Stephen Hale Run and on the hill between that run and Mill Point. The Confederates formed a battle line along the banks of Stamping Creek for a mile or more, and their artillery was on the hill just south of Mill Point. When their guns began to thunder it occurred to Jackson that his battle line was just the right distance from the Federal batteries to be in range of grape shot and he withdrew his army by having them slip silently up the stream until they were hid by the bend of the mountain, and he took them out by the flint pits near Tom Beards. Having gotten his troops under way, he looked up to the long smooth summit of Droop Mountain and decided to take his stand there. By nightfall he was in camp on the crest looking down on the Federal army as they kindled their fires in the broad fields of the Little Levels.

On that Thursday the Federal troops at Marlins Bottom got word to cut out the blockade and move on to Mill Point. Before they left, they burned the log cabins the Confederates had planned to winter in.

On that Thursday, too, General Echols at Lewisburg heard that Gen. Duffie with an army was covering him from Gauley Bridge, and Averill was coming from Beverly, so he got busy. He sent a regiment west on the Midland Trail to hold Duffie. He moved the remainder of his army to Pocahontas. That day he marched his men fourteen miles and went into camp at Spring Creek. The arrangements were to reinforce Jackson who was to fall back until Echols could join him. That night, message was received by Echols that the Federal army was much larger than they had thought at first, and that there would be a battle next day on top of Droop Mountain.

This was no night to sleep. Echols got his forces under way at two o'clock and reached Droop Mountain at nine o'clock that same morning. This was a record march.

... mountain roads. But when they came back the same night they made it in eleven hours. These mountain men marched 56 miles in 42 hours, and had rested 7 hours fighting a battle. They never even hesitated when they reached ... for Duffie was due there that morning.

On Friday morning Nov. 6, 1863 Echols, Arnett and Marshall also Jackson and ... Echols commanding, with an army of around 5000 soldiers were encamped at the foot of the mountain. He was in plain sight of the Confederates on the mountain and it was impossible to march up the mountain and attack from the front without being seen. Therefore, he sent Col. Augustus Moore, of the 28th Ohio Regiment, and Col. T. L. Harris, of the 10th West Virginia, to make a flanking movement and attack the Confederates from the rear. Averill made gestures of attack from the front while Moore and Harris with about 1000 soldiers went over the mountain and through the woods to attack in the rear.

Most of us have grown up with the idea that the Confederates neglected to guard their left flank and that they were taken by surprise, but a study of the official dispatches on both sides do not bear out that theory. It seems that no less than four detachments were sent against this attack and that they fought a long and bloody battle for about a mile through the thick forest and underbrush on top of the mountain. And what is more, instead of being surprised by the flanking movement, a Confederate soldier fired the first shot. This soldier said, "We were lying in the woods watching for the Federal's to advance and the first we saw of them was when a soldier showed his head over a rail fence. This was the first soldier killed at the battle of Droop Mountain.

Moore says that "the Confederates raised at this fence and poured a devastating fire into his men. This was the critical moment, had his men broken at this surprise the battle would have been lost. The men were commanded to lie down, and in a few minutes Col. Harris's regiment joined him and they went forward fighting every inch of the way, arriving at last at the cleared hill where the rebel artillery was."

... in the balance as the fight went on in the west of the Confederate commander Echols knew of the importance of that movement. Capt. Marshall's forces in there first. It was reinforced by Col. ... and some more companies of the same regiment. Then the 23rd Virginia ... was ordered into the woods on the extreme left to support Thompson. ... with four companies of the 14th Virginia Cavalry (Cochran's ... were ordered into the woods where the fighting was heaviest. And ... a picked body of troops from three companies of the 22nd, including Capt. ... 's ... blues, were placed under Capt. John A. Thompson and they ... into the fatal woods and by a desperate charge actually stopped the advance ... the next wave went over them.

Averill marched up the mountain from the front when he detected the fighting in the rear. When his men reached the top of the mountain the Confederate forces broke and ran. The Federals fought a stern chase battle with them for hours.

Those who have made a study of troop movements which culminated in the Battle of Droop Mountain say that General Echols had no time to stay and fight it out with Averill when he knew another Union army was coming to cut off his rear by way of Lewisburg. He was in a trap and it was up to him to get his army out before it could be sprung.

It was a far more reaching victory than the Richmond government was willing to admit, for it was the last stand in a way that the Confederates made in West Virginia. The retreat took them well down to Dublin, and no rebel army was assembled here after that time. This was the turning point of the war so far as the mountains were concerned.

It was fought by troops from the two Virginias with one regiment each from Ohio and Pennsylvania. It broke the power of the Confederates and determined the control of the western part of Virginia.

Gen. Echols reported that the only trophy the Federals could boast of was the capture of a brass cannon. This cannon was a twelve pound howitzer or sling and was the pride of the Confederate army, but it had been injured in a battle at White

... and since it could not be used it was ...
... the place to hide it. So far as is known this cannon was
... at is believed to be buried on the McCoy land.

... lost an eye in this battle. It was his third wound. He
... the dispatches for his bravery and courage. He said that it was
... his ever experiences. Captain Marshall and Captain Hutton, also
... of Pocahontas County received honorable mention in the
... dispatches.

As the Federal army returned over the Seneca Trail to Beverly they were fired
... by a troop of about 60 confederate soldiers near the top of Elk Mountain. Evidently
... these soldiers were called. (Price's History of Pocahontas).

It was here that Colonel Cochran of Virginia made his famous escape. He was
... in the power of a squad of Union soldiers. When asked why he did not
... he said, "If they had said, "Col. surrender!" I would have done so; but they
... "Stop you ----red headed son of a gun!" and I would not accommodate anyone
... who would use such language to me.

Averell's full name was

William Woods Averill

I've found his name spelled Averil, and Averell, but I believe Averill is correct.
This material was taken from 1928 W. Va. Blue Book. History of Pocahontas,
Pocahontas Times Nov. 14, 1935.

Inventory of Materials

Date: 10/1/50 Page: 1

Title: The Battle of Grap Mountain

Author: Willard F. Yeager

Status: Complete

Date Submitted: _____ Length: 950 words

Content:

Editor: _____

Complete story of the battle of Grap Mountain. Gives date & place, military units, leaders & confederates, description of battle, result.

Source:

Comments:

Reliability:

File: _____

troop Mountain v
Confederate forces
Patton (of Kanawha Co.) killed at
the 19th Virginia Infantry, Colonel W. P. Thompson
the 20th Virginia Infantry, Colonel W. W. Arnott Commanding;
Virginia Cavalry, Colonel James Cochran, Commanding; Jackson's and
batteries, and Edgar's and Derrick's Battalions. The entire
force was under command of General John Echols. This force, on the first
day of the month, was lying at Meadow Bluff, in Greenbrier County.

The federal force was composed of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry,
the 30th Ohio Infantry, the 5th, 6th, and 10th, West Virginia Infantry,
and a battery of Artillery. This force had been stationed at Beverly in
Randolph County. The federal force was under command of General W. W.
Averell.

The movement of the two armies preceding this battle have been
traced by competent authority to have been as follows: In the first week
in November, 1863, General Averell ordered General Duffie to meet him him
at 2 p. m., November 7th, at Lewisburg, and Duffie marched from Kanawha,
100 miles. Averell marched from Beverly and had 110 miles to go. Averell
reached Lewisburg on Saturday November 7th, at 2 p. m., and found that
Duffie had got there at 10 a. m.

Averell left Beverly on Sunday and came over Cheat mountain by
way of Cheat Bridge and marched by Camp Bartow, where they left the Staunton
& Harpersburg Turnpike and took the road leading by Greenbank to Huntersville.

They reached Huntersville on Wednesday at noon, and there Averell
learned that Colonel R. Thompson, with the 19th Virginia Cavalry, was at
Huntersville, at the Greenbrier Bridge. Averell sent the 14th Pennsyl-
vania Cavalry and the 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry down Beaver Creek
to find the river eight miles ~~below~~ south of Marlinton to put off
Thompson at Stephen Hole Run on the Marlinton-Lewisburg Turnpike, and sent the
1st and 5th West Virginia mounted infantry to Marlinton with Ewing's Battery.
Thompson, apprehending his danger left in a hurry and cut a barricade of
logs across the pike on Price Hill, a mile or so distant from the bridge,
and sent the federal forces to the pike at Stephen Hole Run and joined up
with the Confederate troops in the Levels and there turned and stopped the
advance. There was some cannon firing that day across the valley of Stamping
Creek at Mill Point. Averell, at Huntersville, got word in the night time
from his command at Marlinton and from Stephen Hole Run, that Thompson had
escaped the trap.

Averell moved his Huntersville army down Beaver Creek, Thursday,
starting at 5 a. m. and reaching Mill Point at 8 a. m. He had ordered
the federal in charge of the Marlinton army to cut out the barricade on
Price Hill and join him at Mill Point, and both wings of the army arrived
at Mill Point at the same time. The effect of this was to put the Con-
federates in motion and they retired from the plains around Hillstoro to
the heights overlooking that town, and erected embankments and fortifi-
cations on the brow of the mountain overlooking the Levels where the pike
crossed the mountain going south.

Averell says that the reason he did not attack on Thursday, when
he came upon the Confederates in the Levels was that he was thirty four
miles from Lewisburg and that if he drove his enemy forward that day they
would be before Subitz Duffie would have arrived from

On Thursday then about all that was done was to try to go around
the Confederates and cut them off from the mountain, but Jackson beat them
and it took a long time to be recovered by Averell.

There were no more into the town before the
the 14th Pennsylvania to the left and the
the 30th Ohio to the right and the
the 5th, 6th, and 10th, West Virginia to the
the 1st and 5th West Virginia to the left and the

G. C. & GEORGIA A. BEARD.

Note dated April 6th, 1934, for \$10,000.00, due August 6th, 1934, and secured by a deed of trust dated October 16th, 1924, on all the real estate and personal property owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company. Said debt with interest is as follows:

Principal	\$10,000.00
Interest from 8-6-1934 to 1-1-1935	<u>241.64</u>
Total	\$10,241.64

Your Commissioner reports that the liens of the Bank of Marlinton and G. C. and Georgia A. Beard are of equal dignity, both being secured by the same deed of trust, the Rockbridge National Bank of Lexington, Virginia, having assigned its lien by virtue of said deed of trust to G. C. and Georgia A. Beard.

LIENS OF THE THIRD CLASS.

FARMERS & MERCHANTS BANK OF MARLINTON.

Note dated April 14th, 1934, for \$5,360.00, with a credit of \$60.00, due July 14th, 1934, and secured by a deed of trust dated October 15th, 1926, on all the real estate and personal property owned by the Marlinton Hotel Company. Said debt with interest is as follows:

Principal	\$5,300.00
Interest from 7-14-1934 to 1-1-1935	<u>148.10</u>
Total	\$5,448.10

LIENS OF THE FOURTH CLASS.

H. K. JOHNSON.

... commenced to fire on the batteries on top of the mountain. The 1st Battery was placed on the left of the pike between Hillsboro and the foot of Droop Mountain. Gibson's Battalion and the 10th West Virginia were held in or near Hillsboro on the pike. The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th, West Virginia Regiments were placed to the right of the pike about the Renick place, out of sight of the Confederates on top of the mountain. The 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry and one company of the Pennsylvania, in all 1175 men, were sent by the long nine mile detour to the right by Lobelia, and while they started long before daylight they did not reach the battle field until 1:45 p. m. In the meantime a great deal of cannon firing had been going on.

About nine o'clock, the Confederates announced by cheers and by band music, and by the display of flags, that Major General Echols had brought his army up. This must have caused Averell some apprehension considering the position he held with the Confederates holding the mountain top. He had not attacked the day before for good and sufficient reason. We shall see later how he won on this day with the odds against him.

The Confederate line of position was as follows: Edgar's Battalion on the river road to Greenbrier. On the farmland on the brow of the mountain where the battle was fought was the 22nd Virginia Cavalry; 19th Virginia Cavalry; 20th Virginia Cavalry; 14th Virginia Cavalry; Derrick's Battalion; Jackson's Batteries. On the Lobelia-Jacox road: Nobody. The failure to guard the road leading in from the rear costs the Confederates the battle. At 1:45 p. m., the flanking party arrived and came through the woods firing as they came. It is said to have been one of the most sudden and most fearful fires that men were ever subject to. In about an hour, the Confederates were in full flight.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

As soon as Averell heard his flanking party commence to fire, he moved the 2nd, 3rd, and 8th regiments obliquely to the right up the mountain. The horses had been left at the foot of the mountain. They came out on top of the mountain exactly on the left of the flanking army and together they advanced on the breastworks of the Confederates and the fight was over in a few minutes, and the Confederate army in full retreat. The losses on both sides was heavy.

3 Miles

To Hillsboro

DROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLE GROUND

SKIRMISH LINES

YANKEE FLATS

GEN. A. S. HEADQUARTERS
HILLSBORO

FIELD
HOSPITAL

ROAD
MILES
AT
HILLSBORO

Mill
Fork

BURNSIDE

ONE O'CLOCK

12 45 PM
10TH WVA
FIRST
FORMATION

12 45 PM.
28TH OHIO
FIRST
FORMATION

3RD W.V. MOUNTED
INFANTRY
14TH CAVALRY
PA. CAVALRY

2ND W.V. MOUNTED
INFANTRY
14TH VA. BATTALION

2 PIECES
KEEFE'S BATTERY
19TH VA. CAVALRY
23RD VA. BATTALION

TWO COMPANIES
COL. COCHRAN
WM L. JACKSON BRIGADE
14TH VA. BATTALION

20TH VA. COL. ARNETT
KESSLERS BATTALION
ECHOLO'S BRIGADE
22ND VA. BATTALION

160 FEET

160 FEET

LOBELIA ROAD

270 Poles
Road from Property Line - 1/2 M.

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POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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Chapter 4 - Section 4 - Incidents in Battle of Droop Mountain.

The Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission has tried to mark the position of the different units and by actual survey and measurements, that the markers which they have planted and the maps which they have prepared, may be a sure guide to the public, and the descendants of the soldiers that fought the battle, and point to the very spot where their fathers stood in the greatest battle ever fought on West Virginia soil.

Milton Butcher, who was Jackson's courier, carried the last order that his chief gave. The order was to Col. Derrick, and read, "Fall back to pike, west of artillery." He delivered the dispatch but his horse was killed and he was captured, but made his escape.

Major Kester, who commanded the 46th Battalion was in front of the 28th Ohio. He stopped their advance and they were back, whereupon Kester shouted to his men to stand firm for two minutes, saying they were whipped, but before the two minutes were up the 10th West Virginia coming up as Colonel Moor says in a report, "just in the nick of time", turned the tide of battle, and the Major found it more convenient to run than stand.

About this time the Confederate line was reinforced by four companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry dismounted. They poured a deadly fire from behind a fence into the ranks of the 10th West Vir-

FOCALMONTAS COUNTY

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Virginia Infantry, and especially into Company F, which happened to be in an exposed position, and many of its members were being shot down, and many wounded and some of its members began to fall back. Their Captain was in prison and the First Lieutenant was on staff duty, and the company had but one commanding officer, Lieutenant Henry Bender. John D. Baxter, the orderly sergeant was in advance of the company. At this point our chairman saw the condition of the company and went up to Baxter and requested him to get back and help line up the company. To this request Baxter never replied but ran up and kicked two or three rails off the fence and they both jumped over and Baxter received a mortal wound. W. F. Morrison, J. M. Barnett and John A. Blagg we believe were the next to cross the fence, and while crossing Blagg was badly wounded and Barnett had a leg shot off. Morrison escaped unharmed. George A. Morrison, Silas Carr and M. D. Shaver were the next of Company F to cross the rail fence. This occurred near the close of the battle. No braver man than J. D. Baxter ever espoused a cause or went to war. A few minutes later Major Bailey of the 22nd Virginia was mortally wounded, while trying to rally his men to make another stand. He was an officer and soldier of daring and courage.

Two most pathetic scenes occurred at that battle: After the battle a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded, and among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry.

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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They were working in the night, and Short discovered a dead soldier, and took hold of his body to remove him to the place where they were bringing the dead and wounded soldiers. He felt a crooked finger on the dead soldier's hand, and the size and feel of the man convinced Short that he was his brother, John. He, therefore, called for someone to bring a light, saying that he had found his brother, and when he had the light, he found for a certainty that it was his brother.

After the battle a young woman was observed going among the dead looking intently into the faces of each dead Confederate soldier. On being asked what she was looking for she said, "I am looking for George". She was the guest at the home of Colonel McNeill. She had recently married and was the wife of Captain George I. Davisson of Lewis County. George had gone through the battle unharmed and was far from the scene of conflict when his wife was looking among the dead.

While every battle has its tragedies, yet in most every battle there is some amusing incident. James Sisler was Colonel Jackson's brigadier quartermaster, and had charge of the trains and ordinance supplies. He recently related that at the close of the battle when they were on the retreat and in great confusion, he rode up to Colonel Jackson and asked him what he would do with the wagon train, and Jackson said, "Damned if I know". Sisler said that he then ordered the teamsters to turn their wagons, and retreat on the Lewisburg pike. He said in the confusion that the team of General Echols' ordinance

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

-4-

wagon became frightened, and whibled around, breaking the tongue off the wagon. They then put some fence rails on the wagon to set it on fire, and he said for several years after, the war, people would come to gather up scattered lead over the fields.

Hamilton Higgs, a member of the 10th West Virginia Infantry, is authority for the story illustrating the coolness of Colonel Harris in battle and under heavy fire. While Colonel Harris was leading his regiment into position for the final charge at Droop Mountain, he passed to a section so rough that he had dismounted and was leading his horse. A bullet from the Confederate lines passed through the long, red beard then worn by the Colonel, cutting out a wisp. He stripped out the severed whiskers and as he dropped them to the ground, turned to Adjutant John Warnicke and said, "John, take my horse back to the rear; I'm afraid he'll get shot." Then he continued to lead the charge on foot.

Prior to the Battle of Droop Mountain there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in the Greenbrier Valley, which was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot, a distance of about one hundred seventy miles, and which protected Virginia from attacks from the west. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate forces, General Averell was directed to march from Beverly, West Virginia, to Lewisburg and it was while on the march that he met the enemy

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought on the 6th day of November, 1863, between the forces commanded by General Averell, and the Confederate forces by General John Echols and Colonel William L. Jackson.

At a distance, it would look like common consent that the forces were to be assembled for a final test of strength. General Averell, with a very formidable force, left Beverly on Nov. 1st, to find the enemy and give battle wherever he might be found. General Wm. L. Jackson, commanding a brigade and several other units, battalions and companies, was joined by General Echols on the morning of the 6th, by a splendid brigade of fighting men. General Averell encountered the Confederates in force at Mill Point on the morning of the 5th, and drove them to the foot of Droop Mountain, and there camped for the night. On the morning of the 6th, General Averell threw out a strong skirmish line that cleared his front to the foot of the mountain. About 9 A. M. the 10th N. Va. Inft., 28th Ohio Inft., and one company of the 14th Pa. Cav. and two pieces of Ewing's Battery were sent around on a back road six and one-half miles where they formed, and struck the enemy in force. Here is where the principal and hardest part of the battle was fought, and in passing over one small plot of cleared land, not comprising more than one acre, thirteen were killed and forty-seven were wounded. Some of those wounded died later, so if this battlefield covering nearly two thousand acres of land and fought on by seven

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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thousand determined soldiers, what would the casualty list have been, if the land had been cleared. Averell then formed the 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Va. Mounted Infantry, with a portion of the 14th Pa. Cavalry in line of battle, who succeeded in driving the Confederate forces, composed of the 22nd Virginia Inf't. and 19th Va. Cav. and other units up the mountain, near the summit. While further on the left of the Confederate line we find a portion of Colonel Averell's regiment, 20th Va. Colonel _____ commanding, Kessler's Battalion, 23rd Va., Major Blessing; four companies Derrick's battalion, a portion of the 22nd Va. Infantry. Some of these units have been twice named because as the fighting became more severe on the Confederate left, they weakened their right by sending reinforcements to strengthen their left.

The forces engaged in the battle were composed of twelve Confederate units regiments, battalions and independent companies.

While the Union forces were composed of nine units, regiments and battalions, there was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies, the 10th West Virginia infantry and the 23rd Ohio that comprise the flanking party and did the principal fighting was reported as 1175 soldiers while the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Confederate, was reported officially at 500 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Captain Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Captain Derring's battalion 300, and Major Kessler's battalion and other units composed a very elegant fighting force. These units were con-

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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positioned on the Confederate left and fought the 10th and 28th. It was a battle royal by seasoned troops of approximately equal numbers.

What turned the tide of battle was the neglect of the Confederate General to fortify his position and protect his flank. Averell, an officer of superior ability, took advantage of the situation and turned the flank of the enemy with his infantry and gave them such a slight margin for their escape which caused much confusion.

All that saved the Confederates from being cut off was the lake that protected their left flank. If Generals Jackson and Echols had fortified the back road over which the flanking units marched, and protected their lines by falling timber and temporary breast works on the mountain side, which they had abundant time to do, their position would have been impregnable. The mere height of a mountain is of but slight advantage to those defending it, if they are not protected by breast works. When the 10th West Va. Infantry succeeded in gaining a position on the left of the Confederate line, the Confederate commander seeing their peril and danger of being cut off, ordered a retreat. The roads being blocked by cavalry, artillery and wagon trains caused much confusion. The Union victory was not the result of lack of numbers on the Confederate side, nor to the gallantry of her soldiers, but a lack on the part of their commanders to comprehend the situation and take advantage of their position.

June 17, 1840

Wells I. McLaughlin
Marlington, W. Va.

FOCAHONTAS COUNTY

Partial reports made by the leading officers who participated in the Battle of Droop Mountain.

General Averell's Report:

On the first day of November, I left Beverly with my command consisting of the 28th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Col. A. Moor; 10th West Virginia Infantry, Col. T. M. Harris; 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Lieut. Col. A. Scott; 3rd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, Col. J. H. Oley; 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry, Col. J. N. Schoonmaker; Gibson's Battalion and Batteries B & G, First West Virginia Light Artillery, Capt. J. V. Keeper and C. T. Ewing.

On the morning of the 6th we approached the enemy's position. The infantry and one corps of cavalry was sent to the right to ascend a range of hills, with orders to attack the enemy's left and rear, the attack of our infantry, 1,175 strong was conducted skillfully by Col. Moor.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th, dismounted, were moved in line obliquely to the right, until their right was joined to Moor's left. Col. Moor says when he arrived in front of the enemy's position, at 1:45 P. M. he formed a line and ordered Col. Harris to move up in double quick, who arrived in the nick of time.

Lieut. Col. Scott's Report.

Lieut. Col. Alex. Scott, 2nd West Virginia Mounted Infantry, says that about 12 o'clock, having moved to the front, "I was ordered to dismount my command and fight on foot, and

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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was ordered to take a position between the third and eighth. At this time we found the 3rd, 8th and 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry in line of battle, with Jackson's force. The 2nd, 3rd and 8th West Virginia Infantry, immediately in front of the breast works".

I went into action with two hundred men; out of that number, there were nine killed, fourteen wounded, two mortally wounded, seven severely and five slightly.

Report of Colonel John Oley

Eighth West Virginia Mounted Infantry. After taking my place with column on the morning of the 6th, I was ordered to clear the hills up to the foot of Croop Mountain of Skirmishers, and pickets. About 1P. M. I was notified that the 2nd and 3rd Mounted Infantry would take a position on my right, and was ordered to assault the enemy's works in conjunction with them.

Col. James N. Schoonmaker's Report

Col. James N. Schoonmaker, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry says that "On the morning of the 6th, I was ordered with my regiment and Keeper's Battery, to move to the extreme right of the enemy, who had again taken a position on the almost naturally fortified summit of Croop Mountain, and keep up a fire on their forces that their attention might be drawn from Col. Moor, who was to make an attack on their left. Knowing of the intended assault of Col. Moor, I immediately got my regiment reformed, and passed with two sections of artillery on the double

quick from the extreme right to the center."

Report of Major Thos Gibson, 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

" On the 1st day of November, I moved with the Brigade and continued with it until the 5th day of November, on which day I marched to Cackleytown, by way of Marlin's Bottom, with the train".

The 10th West Virginia Infantry lost eight killed and twenty-seven wounded.

The 28th Ohio Infantry lost five killed and twenty-one wounded.

CONFEDERATE REPORTS.

Brig. General John Echols.

Gen. Echols says that he placed his forces at the crest of the mountain. The batteries of Chapman and Jackson under the command of Major W. McLaughlin, were placed near where Col. Jackson had placed two pieces of his battery under the command of Capt. Lurty.

Col. G. S. Patton was placed in command of the First Brigade, viz: the 22nd Virginia Infantry, Maj. R. A. Bailey; the 23rd Virginia Battalion, Major Am. Blessing commanding; then at the right of the turnpike road near the summit, and Maj. Bailey's 22nd Regiment in the rear of the Battery. At this time, Colonel Thompson's 19th Virginia Cavalry was moved to the left with one hundred and seventy-five men and was

ROCKHILL COUNTY

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Shortly reinforced by six companies of the 23rd Battalion, later, Colonel Patton was ordered to detach these companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry under Captain John K. Thompson. Colonel George S. Patton commanded Echols's Brigade. The 22nd Virginia went into action with five hundred and fifty strong, losing one hundred and thirteen in killed, wounded and missing. The 23rd Virginia Battalion, three hundred and fifty strong, lost sixty-one in killed, wounded and missing.

Three companies of the 22nd under Captain Thompson, one hundred and twenty-five strong, lost nine killed, thirty wounded, twelve missing. Battle ended at 4 P. M.

Report of Maj. Wm. Blessing, 23rd Virginia Battalion

" When the fighting became very severe I was ordered to march with six companies to the support of Captain Marshall, who, with one hundred and twenty-five dismounted cavalry, was being forced back on the left.

We were then forced back to a fence at the Bloody Angle. We were then reinforced by three companies of the 22nd Virginia Infantry, and one dismounted company of the 14th Virginia Cavalry.

Report of Colonel Thompson

Colonel Thompson, 19th Virginia Cavalry, says that he sent one hundred cavalry under command of Captain Marshall,

POCAHONTAS COUNTY

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the command consisting of the 19th and 20th Virginia Cavalry just then, Major Blessing commanding Dennings Battery, consisting of three hundred men, he having deployed his men on the right of the line formed by Captain Marshall.

Report of Col. W. Wiley, 20th Virginia Cavalry

Says that about 2 P. M. we were attacked by the 2nd and 3rd and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry.

Report of Col. Milton J. Ferguson

Colonel Ferguson, 16th Virginia Cavalry, says that he reported to General Echols on the 5th of November, who was then on the march, and arrived at the camp of Colonel Jackson at the eastern base of Droop Mountain, at 6 A. M. on the morning of the 6th. One squadron of the 14th Regiment was ordered to take position on the old road of Locust Creek. The efficient men of six companies were dismounted, four companies placed on the extreme left under command of Lieutenant Colonel Gibson and two companies in center. John D. Baxter, orderly sergeant of Company F, 10th West Virginia Infantry, was the first one to cross the rail fence at the bloody angle, and fell mortally wounded inside the enemy's lines.

This whole report has been taken from "Report of Droop Mountain Battlefield Commission" John D. Sutton, Chairman.

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Rolla Yeager
From Notes sent to
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BATTLE OF DROOP MOUNTAIN November 6, 1863

By Capt. E. R. Hovary

EVENTS AND DATES PRECEDING BATTLE

- Nov. 1, 1863--Gen. W. W. Averell left Beverly, West Virginia
- Nov. 3, 1863--Gen. A. N. Duffie left Charleston, West Virginia
- Nov. 5, 1863--Gen. John Echols occupied Droop Mountain

Number of troops engaged (Union)-----4700
Number of troops (Confederate)-----3950
Number Killed (Union)----- 150
Number killed (Confederate)----- 400

Troops from West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania took part in the battle.

The Battle of Droop Mountain was fought November 6th, 1863 between Union Forces, commanded by Brig. Gen. William W. Averell, U. S. Army, and confederates troops under the command of Brig. Gen. John Echols, C. S. Army.

One of the reasons for the meeting of these two forces in West Virginia at this time was; The western part of Virginia was inhabited by people who were in favor of the Union, so June 20th, 1863 the old state of Virginia became divided into Virginia and West Virginia.

Confederate troops then were sent into the newly formed state so as to harass the Union troops in that vicinity, also to break down the morale of the people who had left the old state of Virginia. The Southern Troops were very successful. They occupied the Greenbrier Valley with Headquarters at Lewisburg. The road from Lewisburg via Union to the Virginia border was the only available road to Virginia and Tennessee and had the Union troops who were located in the vicinity of Elkins and near Charleston separated. Also winter was coming and the Confederate forces had to be drawn

...so that the line could be maintained. The Southern troops were living off of the country and the people were insisting that aid be sent to them.

On October 26th, Gen Benjamin Kelly, U. S. Army ordered General Averell, who at that time was stationed at Beverly, West Virginia, to move to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity. Also to join forces with General Duffie who left Charleston November 3rd, 1863 at 6:00 A. for Lewisburg. After a junction of the two forces, they were to move to Union, W. Va. and thence to Virginia and Tennessee R.R., at Dublin Station and destroy the railroad bridge over New River.

General Averell moved on the 1st day of November and immediately contacted gorilla bands and small detachments of Confederate troops. The forces of Gen. Averell were able to push back all resistance and on November 5th, reached the town of Hillsboro, West Virginia, about 3 miles from Droop Mountain and 33 miles from Lewisburg. The Union forces were advised that General Duffie would not reach Lewisburg, until November 7th so didn't attack until the morning of November 6th, 1863.

The plan of attack by the Union troops was as follows: 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry were placed near the Locust Creek bridge in sight of the Confederate lines, and kept moving around giving the appearance of starting towards the Southern lines.

Keepers battery was placed on the hill above Beards Mill, and immediately opened fire on the Confederate batteries on top of Droop Mountain about 8:00 A. M. Eison's battery was placed to the left of the turnpike between Hillsboro and Droop. Gibson's battalion and the famous 10th W. Va. Infantry was held in readiness on the pike at Hillsboro.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiments were on the right of the turnpike out of sight about two miles from the base of Droop Mountain. The 28th Ohio Infantry and one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (about 1200 men in all) were sent on a long detour to the right via Lobelia to come over the Jacox road and take the Confederates on the left flank. This movement started about 5:00 A. M. and due to conditions of the roads, did not complete the march until 1:45 P.M.

The position of the Southerners was as follows: On the river road, Edgar's Battalion; on the brow of the mountain facing the Union troops from right and left, 22nd Virginia Cavalry under Colonel Patton; 19th Virginia Cavalry under Co. Cochran; Dorricks Battalion of Infantry, Jackson's batteries; Major Blessing with 6 companies of the 23rd Battalion was placed on the Lobelia-Jacox road covering the left flank. The right flank was protected by a steep mountain.

About 1:45 P. M. November 6th, 1863, the flanking party that had been sent via Lobelia reached the Confederate lines and immediately attacked. The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Regiments immediately started a direct attack up the face of Droop Mountain. They joined force with the flanking party, and drove the Confederates back toward Lewisburg. Due to the road being narrow the Confederates were in confusion--Cavalry and Infantry all mixed up together.

Colonel Thompson was in command of the rear guard of the Confederate and it was through his strong defense that the Southern troops were able to withdraw without much loss of life or equipment. Another thing that might have influenced the retreat was that General Averell did not wish to push the Confederates

too fast, as he wanted Gen. Duffie to reach Lewisburg first and cut them off. The Confederates retreated on through the night and passed through Lewisburg just as General Duffie entered the town from the west. General Duffie captured a few stragglers and some equipment.

This battle was the deciding point in West Virginia. After this the entire state was in the hands of the Northern armies.

One very interesting part of General Echol's report is quoted: "My artillery and trains were brought safely through with the exception of one brass Howitzer belonging to Chapman's battery, which broke completely down during the retreat so that it had to be left this offering the enemy the only trophy of which they can boast."

This cannon is supposed to have been buried in the swamp on Droop Mountain, but has never been found. For those who visit the Droop Mountain Battle Field, a large map has been drawn showing the position of the troop the day of the battle, also the present location of Camp Price, a larger and more distinct map than could be shown here. This larger map shows location of monuments, markers and other items of interest.

Co. 2598, CCC invites all to visit the Battle Field and will enjoy showing to visitors the old battle trenches, breastworks, gun implements and other interesting things.

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Date submitted: _____ Length: 750 words

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Rella F. Yeager

6

Greenbrier Mountain
Battlefield Park CommissionDROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD

One of the hard fought battles of the Civil War occurred at Droop Mountain, Pocahontas County, on November 6th, 1863, in which West Virginia Soldiers, both Confederate and Union participated.

Droop Mountain is a very high elevation--3000 ft--overlooking the valley of the Greenbrier River, in the Little Levels District of Pocahontas County and the far off peaks of the Allegheny Mountains making it one of the most beautiful scenic spots in West Virginia.

Each Army fought for what it believed to be right and nearly all of the men who were actors in that bloody drama were West Virginians. The bitter struggle ended and the animosity engendered by that conflict has passed away and universal peace reigns.

The scene spread out before us was one of indescribable beauty and enchantment. Towering mountains, the smiling and fertile plains, the famous historic Greenbrier River flowing at the base of the rugged mountain --nowhere in all our travels have we witnessed such scenic beauty or such a location for a State Park.

Prior to this battle there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in Greenbrier Valley which was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate

forces, General Averill was directed to march from Beverly, West Virginia to Lewisburg, in Greenbrier County, and ~~that~~ it was while on this march he met the enemy at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought between the forces commanded by General Averill and the Confederate forces by General John Echols and Colonel William L. Jackson. Droop Mountain is fourteen miles south of Marlinton, the County seat, seven miles from Mill Point and four from Hillsboro. It is ten miles from Renick Station, sixteen from Frankford and twenty-four miles from Lewisburg.

The forces engaged in the battle of Droop Mountain were composed of twelve Confederate Units, regiments, battalion and independent companies while the Union forces were composed of nine Unites, regiments and battalions. There was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies. The 10th West Virginia Infantry and the 23rd Ohio that composed the flanking party and did the principal fighting was officially reported as 1175 while the 22nd Virginia Infantry Confederate was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Capt. Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Capt Derringes Battalion 500 and Major Kesler battalion and other units composed a fine fighting force.

Another phase of the history of Droop Mountain is of special interest. We reason from analogy and from prehistoric evidence that Droop Mountain has been a battlefield of some prehistoric race or by the early Indian tribes

of America. Many wonderful stories are handed down through journals and family records of the Shawnees who were the most remarkable of all the people inhabiting the country west of the Allegheny. In 1682 they fell under the rule of the six nations and existed in various branches. We find excavations at the foot of Droop Mountain where thousands of tons of rough flints have been removed.

At one time this has been a great military camping ground for the warriors of the forest. Many legends are told by people who lived on Droop Mountain and handed down for younger generations.

A young Union Officer who rode a beautiful sorrel horse was killed while riding fast around a large tree. The frightened riderless horse ran around the tree several times before it was stopped. It was said by people of that battle they could hear the rapid running of that frightened horse around that tree. *on the Anniversary of that Battle* A most pathetic scene occurred at that battle. After the battle a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded. Among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F. West Virginia Infantry. They were working in the night and Short discovered a dead soldier and took hold of his body to remove him to the place they were bringing the dead and wounded together. He felt a crooked finger on the dead soldiers hand and the size and feel of the man convinced Short that it was his brother John. He called for some one to bring a light, saying that he had found his brother,

-4-

and when they got the light he found for a certainty that the man really was his own brother. In relating the incident to Dr. W. P. Newton many years after the battle, he said that he took his brother by the hand and recognized some peculiarity by which he knew this to be the lifeless body of his brother. This is an incident so rare that nothing similar has ever to our knowledge been recorded in the annals of warfare.

Rolla F. Engesser